

Grado UK Media Coverage



58

PIECES OF COVERAGE:

575M

ONLINE READERSHIP:

1.32M

ESTIMATED COVERAGE VIEWS:

386

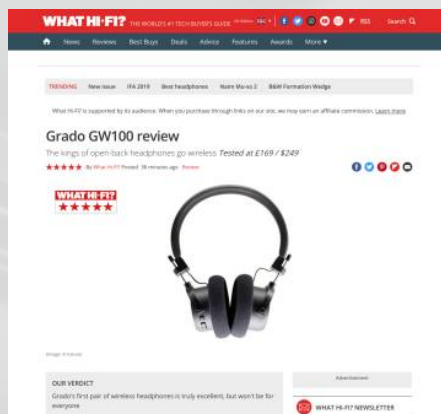
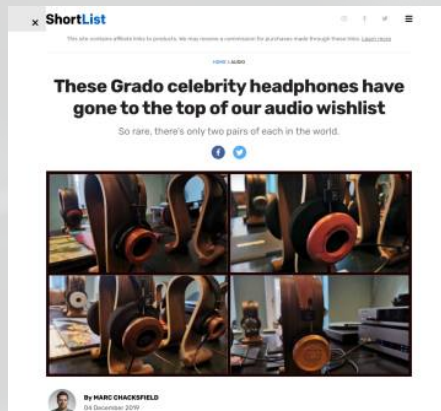
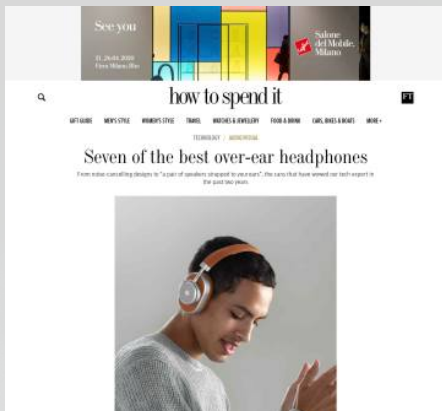
SOCIAL SHARES:

82

AVERAGE DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

4.75M

CIRCULATION:



See you

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how to spend it



GIFT GUIDE MEN'S STYLE WOMEN'S STYLE TRAVEL WATCHES & JEWELLERY FOOD & DRINK CARS, BIKES & BOATS MORE +

TECHNOLOGY / AUDIO/VISUAL

Seven of the best over-ear headphones

From noise-cancelling designs to "a pair of speakers strapped to your ears", the cans that have wowed our tech expert in the past two years



Master & Dynamic MW65 headphones, £449 | Image: Courtesy of Master & Dynamic

FT How To Spend It

JAN 26 2020

(IMAGE 1 OF 6)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **182K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **160**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **94**



1



JANUARY 26 2020 / JONATHAN MARGOLIS



Master & Dynamic MW65

I wore these headphones for the whole of a JFK-to-Heathrow flight and I'm pretty sure it was the best cans-on-a-plane experience I've ever had. Not only did their soft, all-encompassing leather and memory foam earpads not rub or chafe even after six hours, but the music from their 40mm (that's big) beryllium drivers was sweet, loud and natural. The session barely put a dent in the battery life – they will run for 24 hours on a charge. The Bluetooth is incredibly strong. Oh, and the noise-cancelling didn't leave me feeling weird and "coldy" as the technology sometimes can. These are beautiful and impeccable performers. £449; masterdynamic.co.uk.



Luzli Roller, from £2,880 | Image: Hugh Threfall

Luzli Roller

With a starting price of £2,880, these extraordinary headphones are among the world's costliest. They are amazing on two counts. The first is their unique physical form. The headbands are reminiscent of an oversized aluminium link watchstrap (and are indeed made on a premium Swiss watchstrap line) and the mechanical quality is superb. They roll up into a sort of dense, metallic croissant. And the audio they produce is nothing short of stupendous for what is effectively a travel headphone. One caveat: don't waste your time plugging them into a phone – their quality will make ordinary recordings sound like mush. Either use an HD player or a sound-enhancing amplifier like the [ifi xDSD](http://ifi.com). From £2,880; luzli.com.



FT How To Spend It

JAN 26 2020

(IMAGE 2 OF 6)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **182K**

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DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **94**



1



the ifi xDSD. From £2,880; [luzli.com](#).

Grado GW100

An old family firm in Brooklyn, [Grado](#) makes some of the world's best high-end headphones, which can cost upwards of £1,000. The GW100s, its first Bluetooth wireless phones, are priced at £200 but have the quality of something much, much more expensive. I was quite shocked when I first heard them. They are loud as heck, even when fed by nothing more than an [iPhone](#), and my word, they sound deep and detailed and sweet. They claim to be able to play for 15 hours at 50 per cent volume, which is impressive as battery life goes. £200; [grado.co.uk](#).



Grado GW100, £200 | Image: Hugh Threlfall

Audeara A-01 travel headphones

One of a new breed of headphones that can adapt to an individual's hearing, the offering from Australian brand Audeara is very impressive. The A-01's top-level, 32-point tuning procedure seems to be the most thorough of all the contenders in this genre – it takes 10 minutes of hard concentration, but you only have to do it once for each user. The sound is superb – perhaps not as dramatic or as loud as I like in these products, but that's just me. The noise cancelling is good and makes up for the quieter sound. AU\$349 (about £182); [audeara.com](#).



FT How To Spend It

JAN 26 2020

(IMAGE 3 OF 6)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **182K**

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DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **94**



1



Audeara A-01, AU\$349 (about £182) | Image: Hugh Threlfall

Audio-Technica ATH-ADX5000

The flagship, just-shy-of £2,000 headphones from Audio-Technica – the biggest headphone brand in Japan – are quite something and more. When I reviewed their nearest competitor, [Sennheiser's £1,400 HD 800s](#), four years ago, I was pretty knocked out by them – both the clear and natural sound and their lightness and comfort. Well, [Audio-Technica's](#) ADX5000s are lighter, have slightly bigger drivers and sound a shade more exquisite. They need a powerful source, ideally a high-end [amplifier](#), but were fine with the (still amazing) £3,300 [Astell & Kern SP1000](#) portable. Headphones at this level are not for private listening – they're more like a pair of speakers strapped to your ears. [£1,990; eu.audio-technica.com](#).



Audio-Technica ATH-ADX5000, £1,990 | Image: Hugh Threlfall

FT How To Spend It

JAN 26 2020

(IMAGE 4 OF 6)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

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1

FT How To Spend It

JAN 26 2020

(IMAGE 5 OF 6)

Moshi x Grey Jason Wu Avanti

These fantastic-looking, special-edition headphones from **Moshi**, a San Francisco audio and tech accessories company, were designed by **Jason Wu**, who created Michelle Obama's outfits for both of her husband's inaugurations. It was my daughter-in-law who drew my attention to them, declaring them the most stylish and comfortable she had ever seen. I then had a listen to them and, to my surprise, found them really quite classy. Build, looks and fit-wise, there's more than a bit of the ever-popular **Sennheiser Momentum** about them and, like those, they seal off outside noise superbly. The decent-sized high-resolution neodymium 40mm drivers produce a rich, sophisticated sound. £225; moshi.com.



Moshi x Grey Jason Wu Avanti, £225 | Image: Hugh Threlfall

Bowers & Wilkins PX

Natural-sounding, beautiful-looking and superbly made by Sussex brand Bowers & Wilkins, the PXs are wireless noise-cancelling headphones that are a squeak better than the world-dominant **Bose QuietComfort 35s**. They don't do anything electronically fancy to your music – what you hear is what you hear, and you hear it very beautifully. The PXs have the HD version of Bluetooth aptX, so faithfully stream from the latest music players, while the PX app enables you to customise the noise-cancelling level or turn it off. Lovely, stylish, solid British tech. From £270; bowers-wilkins.co.uk.



(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **182K**

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DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **94**



1



Bowers & Wilkins PX, £270 | Image: Hugh Threlfall

FT How To Spend It

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(IMAGE 6 OF 6)

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Grado PS2000e Headphone Review

Comfort in sound

by Ed Selley Friday at 9:50 AM

Review Specs Discussion (6)

HI-FI review 6

HI-FI
Grado



GRADO PS2000E HEADPHONES (2019)

SRP: £2,695.00

What is the Grado PS2000e?

The Grado PS2000E is an over ear, open back headphone. It represents the very top of the Grado product range and encompasses everything the company knows about making headphones in a single package. This doesn't come cheap of course. The PS2000e is yours for a healthy £2,695. This makes it a full thousand pounds more expensive than the [Sennheiser HD-800S](#) and that is a truly magnificent headphone - in fact, it's hard to envisage objectively how much better the Grado can conceivably be.

The fact it is here for review at all is testimony to Grado being cut from a slightly different cloth to many other brands. The last Grado product I reviewed was the [GS2000e](#) which is one rung down the product ladder and... it might be fair to say that the experience was a mixed bag. The sonic performance was utterly outstanding - an almost perfect combination of accuracy, space and tonal richness that balanced hearing what is on the recording with a little helping of fun too. Unfortunately, the willingness to listen to this performance had to be tempered against a wearing experience that wasn't anywhere near

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(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **3.19M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **8.5K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **84**



performance had to be tempered against a wearing experience that wasn't anywhere near as joyous. Many companies, confronted with feedback like that would not send another product, let alone the flagship, but Grado is back to try again.



So, two questions. The first is to ask is this really worth over two and a half grand and the second is to see if this performance is exploitable in the real world. Let's see what the culmination of everything that Grado knows about headphones can actually do.

Specification and Design

The PS2000e is designed around the same principles that underpin all Grado headphones. It is designed as much as is humanly possible to place the drivers in free space. The drivers themselves are an ongoing evolution of Grado design practice. They are low mass designs - intended to be responsive and easy to drive to further capitalise on their mounting. Grado is an evolution rather than revolution type of company so this driver has been around for a while but under continuous development all the time so here it has revised geometry and a different grille at the front of the enclosure to improve the diffusion.

Some of you will be thinking, 'yeah but at least this one doesn't have any wood in it' and if you are you're dead wrong. Peel away the foam pad and lurking in there is a clearly visible section of the stuff, in this case, maple. Grado still feels that wood is the best material for the business of housing a driver. While this use of wood continues to the outside in the GS models, here Grado partners it with a ring made of smoked chrome. Grado says that the combination is absolutely optimal in terms of resonance control and the elimination of cabinet based distortion.



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(IMAGE 2 OF 8)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **3.19M**

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There are some other design decisions that don't necessarily have any sonic impact but are a source of interest too. The headband is still leather but here it is wider than another Grado headphone. It is combined with larger foam pads that - in my case anyway - completely encase the ear and change the point of pressure exclusively to the side of the head. This doesn't sound like much... but it has some clear effects as we shall come to.

BB The PS2000e has a fixed cord that is exactly 5 feet long. This is perfectly judged to be too long when sat next to your headphone amp and not long enough to reach equipment on the other side of the room

Other aspects of the design are exactly as you would find them on other Grado headphones. The single pole mount is retained for the cups and this does the simultaneous trick of looking laughably crude at the sort of price that the PS2000e costs... and working like a charm. The Grado is able to handle having an uneven head (and we all do to an extent, even Gregg Wallace and Dominic Littlewood, despite appearances, are not perfectly symmetrical spheres) in a way that many rivals boasting very ornate hinge and bracket arrangements cannot get near. The foam pads serve as part of the suspension and the housing in a way that is also somewhat basic to look at but extremely effective.

Of course, it wouldn't be a Grado without some design decisions that have me yearning to be a fly on the wall in Brooklyn when they were taken. The PS2000e has a fixed cord that is exactly 5 feet long. This is perfectly judged to be too long when sat next to your headphone amp and not long enough to reach equipment on the other side of the room. An extension cable is supplied to handle the latter but why it isn't a little longer and the affixed cable a little shorter is one of the more enduring mysteries of headphone design. If you have moved to a balanced headphone amp (not unusual at this elevated price point) an XLR equipped variant is available.

It is well made though. The GS2000e felt encouragingly solid but there is no getting away from the more traditional use of metal helping to make the PS2000e feel a little more like a precision instrument than something made at an artisan level (although photos of the Grado factory suggest it is quite artisanal). Compared to the Germanic solidity of Sennheiser or the applied science of Focal, this doesn't come across in the same way but it *does* feel well made and well executed.

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(IMAGE 3 OF 8)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **3.19M**

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BB Grado is an evolution rather than revolution type of company so this driver has been around for a while but under continuous development



Of course, when you get to this sum of money, the nature of how a product makes you

PS2000e does well as it feels special. One of the oddest manifestations of this is the impact of time and use on the Chrome sections of the housing. The review sample has clearly been out and about for some time before I got my hands on them and even after they've been cleaned, some marks remain on the metal which are clearly visible in the photos.

There're two ways of looking at this. You could, perfectly reasonably, say that Grado should make this harder wearing. The other is that when you have your pair, those markings will be your markings, resulting from how you use and hold them and I find that strangely appealing. After a year, it is highly likely that no two pairs of PS2000es will be the same and I rather like that. It contributes to the ideal that Grado made the PS2000e for you and how you use them is going to have a bearing on them. If this sounds like drivel, fair enough, other options are available.

How was the PS2000e tested?

The Grados have largely been used with a [Chord Electronics Hugo2](#) running off a [Lenovo T560 ThinkPad](#) running as a [Roon Core](#). They have also seen some testing connected to a [Hugo TT2](#) and [Mscaler](#) connected to an [SOTM SMS-200 Neo](#) and an [LG 55B7 OLED](#) and have also seen some analogue testing with a [Luxman L590AX MkII](#) integrated amp connected to a [Michell Gyrodec](#), [SME M2-9](#) and [Goldring Ethos](#) cartridge. Material use has included [FLAC](#), [AIFF](#), [ALAC](#) and some DSD, [Qobuz](#) and [Deezer](#).

Sound Quality

Let's get the headphone use boilerplate out the way first. The PS2000e is to use on the

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(IMAGE 4 OF 8)

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Hop to

What is the Grado PS2000e?

Specification and Design

How was the PS2000e tested?

Sound Quality

Verdict

Scores



Let's get the headphone use boilerplate out the way first. The PS2000e is to use on the move what a chainsaw is to hairdressing. Judged by the absolute noise leakage benchmark that is the GS2000e, this is slightly better but thanks to the drivers being in free space, you are not going to win any friends using these in a public place. This is unashamedly a home headphone and, even then, one that requires a little isolation in your listening habits to work.



If you can work with these rules though, the PS2000e will reward you in quite extraordinary ways. Grado's methodology for designing headphones can seem a little maddening but they genuinely aren't there in a physical sense. Listening to the 24/44.1 Qobuz stream of the new live album from My Baby (imaginatively enough, called *LIVE*), the Grado delivers a performance that is utterly and compellingly real. The layout of the band, their interactions with each other and the very good time they are clearly having are effortlessly realised. It requires truly exceptional speakers that have been set up with incredible precision to get close to what the Grados do seemingly on autopilot.

And those speakers will need to be pretty hefty too because the PS2000e has magnificent bass response. Grado claims that the response is flat down to 5Hz (and happy enough in the other direction until 50kHz) and while this is tricky to test in normal use, there is no hiding the useful muscularity they possess. The 'useful' bit is that they combine this grunt with a speed and lightness of touch that ensures they sound fast on their feet. This means that Beck's *Uneventful Days* sounds punchy but light on its feet rather than a little leaden.

BB The PS2000e is to use on the move what a chainsaw is to hairdressingthanks to the drivers being in free space, you are not going to win any friends using these in a public place

Give it natural low end to attend to and it is even better. A demonstration of what the Grado can do is to give it something like the original *Heartbeat Drummers of Japan*. This was one of the first albums of Taiko drumming to attract any attention outside of Japan and as an early digital album (it was recorded in 1985) it has astounding dynamic range. The Grados capture the snit singing before the drummers kick off and then hear the

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and as an early digital album (it was recorded in 1969) it has astounding dynamic range. The Grado captures the quiet singing before the drummers kick off and then, boom, the soundstage and sheer scale of the drums themselves begins and realise why the singing was so quiet because the space they are in is truly enormous. It's not a wall of sound either. You can discern individual drummers and the nuance and identity of their drums. Not only is the PS2000e able to recreate this effectively, it's better than most speakers at it.



And, as this is AVForums after all, their performance with TV and on demand material is impressive too. Once again, what really helps the PS2000e to shine is the incredibly even handed way that it goes about covering the entire frequency response. The muted dialogue of *Mindhunter* is unflinchingly clear and easy to follow but, when it launches into Steve Miller's *Fly Like an Eagle*, the effortless shift in dynamics is beautifully handled. There are a number of comments from both other reviewers and owners that the Grado can be slightly merciless in its realism but I've not really found that to be the case here. If you stick compressed tat in, you'll get tat back out but I've found the PS2000e to tolerate rougher recordings than I was expecting and stay sounding good while it does so.

BB It requires truly exceptional speakers that have been set up with incredible precision to get close to what the Grados do seemingly on autopilot

And now, we come to the 'but' that, based on the GS2000e anyway, should be coming. For all the magic of the GS2000e, I simply couldn't stand to wear them for that long. Given that the PS2000e looks very similar, I was expecting more of the same but... for reasons I don't completely follow, the flagship is a rather different proposition and indisputably the most comfortable Grado I've ever tested. As best I can work out, the wider headband, holds the weight better and has a different level of suspension on the side of the head. The result of these two changes and the fractionally larger foam surrounds mean that as I type these words, I have been wearing the PS2000e for a little over three hours and all is well. Compared to some of the things that Focal is achieving in comfort terms, the Grado is still a little on the crude side but this is rather more likely to work for a wider spread of people than the GS model is.

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(IMAGE 6 OF 8)

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people than the GS model is.

What makes this more heartening still is that in most other regards, the PS2000e is no more demanding than the more affordable models. The Hugo2 which has been used for the bulk of testing is barely running at higher levels than they are for earphones. This is not to say that they don't benefit from quality partnering gear because they do but this doesn't have to be a huge device throwing out the sort of figures you'd associate with a conventional amp. In one sense it does demonstrate that this method of building headphones does make for models that will genuinely work on the end of almost anything but that in doing so, creates a design you'll only truly want to use at home.

BB ...the flagship is a rather different proposition and indisputably the most comfortable Grado I've ever tested



Verdict

9
SCORE

OUT OF 10

Grado PS2000e Headphone Review

This then, is a little unexpected. For the extra they cost, I had hoped that the PS2000e would improve on the GS2000e. And it does. This is a means of listening to music that can only be rivaled by stereo speakers that cost a lot more than £2,695 (and need significant outlay



space - clear better than almost anything else.

Then - slightly unexpectedly but wholly welcome nonetheless - is that the PS2000e harnesses this ability in a headphone that looks a bit less weird and is dramatically more comfortable than many other Grado

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(IMAGE 7 OF 8)

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Hop to

What is the Grado PS2000e?

- Truly astonishing lack of constraint or colouration
- Sensitive and easy to drive
- More comfortable than



- More comfortable than other Grado models

Cons

- Biblical noise leakage
- Looks a matter of taste
- Rather expensive

dramatically more comfortable than many other Grado designs. This turns them from something academically brilliant into something genuinely brilliant. This is one of the finest home headphones ever made and it unhesitatingly comes Highly Recommended.

MORE: [Further headphone reviews here](#)



Scores



Our Review Ethos

Read about our review ethos and the meaning of our review badges.

To comment on what you've read here, click the **Discussion** tab and post a reply.

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Gavin & Stacey

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Paddington

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TELFORD GROOMING SCANDAL

JUSTICE AT LAST



BEHIND BARS
Mohammed Ali Sultan

» Victim tells of relief as four child sex abusers are jailed

» MP thanks Sunday Mirror for our 18-month investigation



FACES OF EVIL Abusers Shafiq Younas, Mohammad Rizwan and Amjad Hussain

BY **GERALDINE McKELVIE**
Investigations Editor

A TELFORD abuse victim today reveals tears of relief at finally seeing four tormentors jailed.

The woman, groomed as a child, got justice after a case triggered by a Sunday Mirror probe. She said: "I just sobbed. I was relieved, happy and sad, all at the same time."

Telford MP Lucy Allan said: "Thanks to the Sunday Mirror for their investigation."

FULL STORY: PAGES 4&5

CIRCULATION:

372K

Going out



Staying in

Ultimate home comforts PAGE 47

Making the most of your free time

Book it

Aladdin, St Helens Theatre Royal, Merseyside (Till Jan 12)
The fun of this festive panto goes on well into the new year (oh yes it does). Strictly star Robin Windsor leads the cast in a magical romp sure to make your wishes come true. sthelentheatreroyal.com



Creatures of the Night, Natural History Museum, London (Dec 31)
Go really wild for New Year's Eve at this opulent bash in the museum's famous Hintze Hall. Join in with the Massaoke band, try musical bingo and welcome in 2020 with the Museum of the Moon silent disco. nhm.ac.uk

Shen Yun 2020, various (Dec 31 - Jan 26)
Not so much a dance show as a full-blown spectacular, this celebration of ancient Chinese dancing is a breathtaking display of colour, sound and movement. shenyun.com

Mindful Drinking Festival, Truman Brewery, London (Jan 18 & 19)

Planning on a dry January? Why not enhance the experience with this festival exploring the trend of sober living. Discover a vast array of mocktails, sober spirits and zero alcohol beers and wines as you soak up the thought-provoking lectures and panels. mindfuldrinkingfestival.com

To Kill a Mockingbird, Gielgud Theatre, London (May 21 - Oct 31)

West Wing creator Aaron Sorkin is behind this stage adaptation of Harper Lee's beautiful novel about racial injustice, set in the American Deep South. With Rhys Ifans as Atticus Finch, it's one of 2020's hot tickets. tokillamockingbird.co.uk

Theatre

Peter Pan, Hull Truck Theatre (Until Jan 4)

There's a little something for everyone in Hull Truck Theatre's version of JM Barrie's classic tale about the boy who never grows up. The adventure is brought to life with wistful songs, daring fight scenes, dazzling scenery and aerial acrobatics. Vanessa Schofield hits just the right note as Wendy, conveying a mixture of innocence and defiance, and Baker Mukasa is a mischievous, cheeky Peter. But it's Ryan O'Donnell who steals the show with his sexy version of Captain Hook, as he swaggers around the stage before getting his final comeuppance. While this production is more serious than the usual knockabout treatment, writer Debbie McAndrew retains the humour with interludes of audience participation. Most suited to pre-teens, this family treat is a clever take on a much-loved favourite. **GRACE MACASKILL**



Walk OF THE WEEK

UNDISCOVERED FORMBY, MERSEYSIDE

Distance **3 miles**
1 From National Trust Formby, take path to left of toilets, heading down ramp into woodland. Follow white and purple marker posts through woodland until you meet another path at a T-junction.
2 Turn right and follow wide stone path, waymarked for Sefton Coastal Path.
3 Eventually leave the woodland and head into the open dunes. Continue along path to a junction by a bench, where you leave Sefton Coastal Path and take the path straight ahead, over the dunes and on to the beach.
4 Turn left along beach. After ¼ mile turn left at Blundell Path marker, leaving beach via path over dunes.
5 As you come over the dune you will see a clear path going off to the left

through a thickly vegetated area. Take this, and continue through a sharp right bend and up a slope. When path descends, take clear path on right, heading into woodland.
6 At fork, go right to a T-junction with a wide stone path. Turn right here. The path then curves round to the right. Take the sandy path to the left between two fenced fields.
7 At end of field turn left along grass and sand path, until it meets a stone path at a T-junction. Turn right, through woodland, before coming out on a grassy field. Continue straight ahead.
8 At end of this field, take stone path on left into pine woodland. Continue to



STOP OFF AT...

The Freshfield, Formby
Famous for its 14 fantastic real ales, this award-winning pub offers a warm welcome after a bracing coastal walk. Tuck into hearty breakfasts until noon. greenekingpubs.co.uk

Details and map at nationaltrust.org.uk/

WHILE YOU'RE OUT
Grado GW100 bluetooth headphones, £199, grado.co.uk

A first pair of wireless cans from Brooklyn's finest. The open back design delivers great detail with a wide soundstage and balanced bass. Simple to pair, very comfortable and excellent value.



Comedy

Chris Ramsey 20/20 (March 21 - Dec 10, 2020)

As everyone who watched Strictly knows, when it comes to dancing Chris Ramsey is a pretty quick study - going from total novice to semi-finalist. His rise in comedy is fairly meteoric too - he first won awards for his stand-up while still a student and is now one of the UK's most popular comics. The affable lad from South Shields is so in demand that extra dates have been added to his tour, and tickets are selling fast - so quick-stap to it if you want to see him live. chrisramseycomedy.com

Art

Among the Polar Ice
The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum (Until March 8)

Think it's cold outside where you are? Then take a look at these scenes of life in the Antarctic, stretching back more than 200 years. Dominated by the work of Frances Walker and James Morrison (who dodged polar bears to paint his portraits), these landscapes show off the timeless beauty of the region's desolate but stunning environment - giving us a timely reminder of the crisis it is now facing. mcmanus.co.uk



Films



Little Women
U, 135mins. Opens Thursday
This take on Louisa May Alcott's 1868 novel stars Emma Watson as one of the four March sisters, looking at their young adult lives after the American Civil War.



Spies in Disguise
PG, 102mins. Opens Thursday
Animated comedy with Will Smith as super-spy Lance Sterling, transformed into a pigeon when one of his cool gadgets goes wrong.



Playing with Fire
PG, 96mins. Opens Thursday
Family comedy about a rough 'n' tough bunch of smoke-jumping firemen who end up in charge of three children separated from their parents after an accident.

BOX OFFICE Top 5

- 1 Frozen II Kristen Bell
- 2 Kales Out Daniel Craig
- 3 Last Christmas Emilia Clarke
- 4 Les Miserables: The All-Star Staged Concert Michael Ball
- 5 Blue Story Stephen Odobola

CIRCULATION:

372K

Best gifts for audiophiles: fantastic-sounding Christmas ideas

Brilliant gifts for sound hounds.



(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **443K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **1.19K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **81**



1



By **SIMON LUCAS**

07 December 2019

You know what they say: get a group of half a dozen people (or more) into a room and one of them will be an audiophile. And if you look around the room and don't see the audiophile, well - it's you.

But audiophiles can be tricky to choose presents for. They've already upgraded their speaker cable, they have more anti-static record cleaners than they've had hot dinners, and all their vinyl album covers are already in frames and hung on the wall. So how do you choose a present for the audiophile in your life?

By perusing the list below, that's how. We've chosen ten of the most appropriate, most thoughtful and most



By perusing the list below, that's how. We've chosen ten of the most appropriate, most thoughtful and most downright impressive audiophile gifts you can give, and at a range of prices. There's certain to be something here to delight your pet audiophile - and if we've missed out your favourite, let us know about it below.

- Don't miss our group test of the [best soundbars](#) and the [best record players](#) around.
- [Best vinyl records](#): to collect and show off your system

Best gifts for audiophiles



1. Japrock sampler

£12.99

[Buy now from Amazon](#)

Over the years Julian Cope has involved himself in any number of artistic endeavours, but at heart he's a music-lover. The subtitle of Japrock sampler ('how the post-war Japanese blew their minds on rock'n'roll') tells you what's going on here - and Cope's an engaging and amusing writer, utterly in thrall to his subject. Even the most ardent audiophile should be curious to learn about Moriaki Wakabayashi, the original bass player with drone-legends Les Rallizes Dénudés - he participated in the 1970 hijacking of a Japan Airlines flight and still resides in North Korea (to where the unfortunate aircraft was diverted).



2. The Rest Is Noise: Listening To The 20th Century

£11.89

[Buy now from Amazon](#)

Alex Ross is the music critic at The New York Times, and what he doesn't know about 20th-century music, frankly, isn't worth knowing. Fortunately, as well as holding all this knowledge, Ross is also a thoroughly entertaining writer who manages to divulge fact after fact without ever coming on like a lecturer. As a consequence The Rest Is Noise is brilliantly readable, scholarly but accessible, and will make any audiophile even more of a threat at a pub quiz.



3. Shure KSE1200

£1,573.53

[View now at Amazon](#)

'Electrostatic' to the audiophile is like 'turbo-charged' to the car nut or 'haute couture' to the fashionista

Shortlist

DEC 7 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 7)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **443K**

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1



'Electrostatic', to the audiophile, is like 'turbo-charged' to the car nut or 'haute couture' to the fashionista. Ordinarily, electrostatic technology (whether it's headphones or speakers) tends to be really big and really expensive. But headphones savant Shure has addressed at least one of those drawbacks - its KSE1200s are small in-ear headphones with a matched amplifier. Doesn't look like a lot of stuff for the money, but the sound they make turns them into an absolute bargain.

Shortlist

DEC 7 2019

(IMAGE 3 OF 7)

1 0
↑ ↓



4. Sony NW-A100TPS

£400.00

[Buy now from Amazon](#)

Yes, it's true - it has been 40 years since Sony introduced the original Walkman. To celebrate this Ruby anniversary, Sony has delivered the NW-A1000TPS portable digital audio player. It has 16GB of internal memory (expandable via microSD card), Bluetooth and NFC pairing, can play back high-resolution audio files, is Android 9.0-enabled - and it comes with a soft case that makes it look just like the original TPS-L2 Walkman from 1979.

1 0
↑ ↓



5. Vinyl Me, Please Subscription

\$25 a month

[Sign up at Vinyl Me, Please](#)

It can be tricky knowing which record to buy for an audiophile. Far better, then, to leave it with the experts at Vinyl Me, Please. Every month they ship a carefully selected, lovingly pressed and exquisitely packaged LP to their subscribers, with coloured vinyl, exclusive artwork or custom lyric books included to further sweeten an already tooth-achingly sweet deal. Choose from 3, 6 or 12-month subscriptions and then sit back to await your favourite audiophile's tears of gratitude.

1 0
↑ ↓



6. Audio Technica AT-LP120XUSB

£199.00

[Buy now from Amazon](#)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

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(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

1.19K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

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Despite what the relevant companies might say, not every song ever recorded is available on music streaming services - so how is the audiophile to listen to his or her favourite obscure music while on the go? By copying their precious vinyl to a computer, of course - and that's where the AT-LP120XUSB comes in. As well as being a very decent record player in its own right, it's fitted with a USB output - so it is simple to make digital copies of those LPs and singles Spotify has never heard of.

Shortlist

DEC 7 2019

(IMAGE 4 OF 7)



7. Cyrus SoundKey DAC

£49.00

[Buy now from Amazon](#)

Plugging headphones straight into the socket of a laptop or a smartphone seldom ends well for the audiophile. The headphone output on devices like this is almost always an afterthought, and almost always sounds like it. But put a little Cyrus soundKey inbetween the digital output of a phone or computer and some headphones (to let the Cyrus take care of the digital-to-analogue processing) and the difference in audio quality is night and day.



8. GamuT Hi-Fi Lobster Chair

£4599.00

[View now at Stone Audio](#)

The Lund & Paarmann 'Lobster' chair is already a classic piece of Danish interior design. How do you improve on that? By handing it over to equally renowned Danish high-end hi-fi manufacturer Gamut, which incorporates a whole lot of acoustic damping materials to produce what it claims is 'the world's first music listening chair', that's how. Absolutely perfect for the audiophile with impeccable taste in design and decor.



9. IsoAcoustics OREA Graphite Home Audio Isolator

£45.00

[Buy now from Audio Affair](#)

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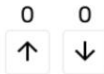
DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

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For most audiophiles the devil is in the detail, and the tweakier the detail the better. That where IsoAcoustics's OREA Graphite isolators come in: they isolate hifi equipment (be it a turntable, an amplifier or any other expensive piece of electronics) from vibration. Vibration is the mortal enemy of great sound reproduction, and the less a system is subject to vibration the happier (and higher-performing) it will be. Honestly, it's true.

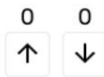


10. Grado GW100

£159.00

[Buy now from Amazon](#)

Grado has certainly gone against the grain with the Grado GW100s. They are open-back headphones that are wireless. Quite why you need them to be wireless (as you aren't exactly going to take them on public transport) isn't really clear but they are a fantastic-sounding, great-looking pair of headphones. The sound you get from GW100s is way beyond what you expect from headphones that cost well under £200.



11. Bose Home Speaker 500

£299.00

[Buy now from Amazon](#)

You've plenty of choice when selecting a premium wireless speaker at around £300. But the Bose Home Speaker 500 makes a few cases for itself: its elliptical shape and anodized finish look and feel great; it has a bright, bold full-colour screen; it can deliver true stereo sound from a single enclosure. Add Amazon Alexa or Google Assistant voice control, plus a useful app into which you can incorporate Amazon Music, Spotify and all the rest, and the Home Speaker 500 starts to look compelling.



SOMETHING MISSING FROM OUR SHORTLIST?

Tell us about it, and if enough people agree we'll add it in.

Shortlist

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1

SUBMIT SHORTLIST ENTRY

Shortlist

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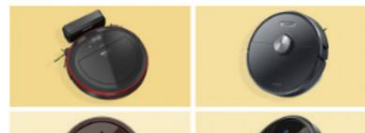
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Shortlist

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1

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HOME > AUDIO

These Grado celebrity headphones have gone to the top of our audio wishlist

So rare, there's only two pairs of each in the world.



By **MARC CHACKSFIELD**

04 December 2019

Grado is a headphone manufacturer that is coveted by celebrities. When a celebrity comes knocking on its door, wanting a pair of headphones, it makes them a pair - adding their name to them, and whatever other design flourishes they may want.

Sometimes Grado sells a version of them as limited edition headphones but, for the most part, they are unique to the artist. In fact, each pair of custom headphones is custom-made. What's the deal? It's a celebrity's desire to be the first

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **443K**

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Sometimes Grado sells a version of them as limited edition headphones but, for the most part, they are unique to the celeb. In fact only two of each headphone is actually made. Why two? Well, if a celebrity breaks the first pair, there is a spare just in case. But that's it.

Given these are headphones made specifically for the A-listers - hand built in Grado's studio in Brooklyn - that request them, it's very rare that you would actually see them... except in paparazzi pictures and the like.

ShortList was pretty privileged, then, to be in a room with a selection of these headphones this week - surrounded by the 'spares'. We saw them up close and they are beautifully designed things.

We were shown them while audio taste-testing Grado's public-facing range of headphones. First up, we tried the Grado SR 80es. Part of the Prestige series, these are open back, and on ear, and sound way beyond their sub-£100 price range.

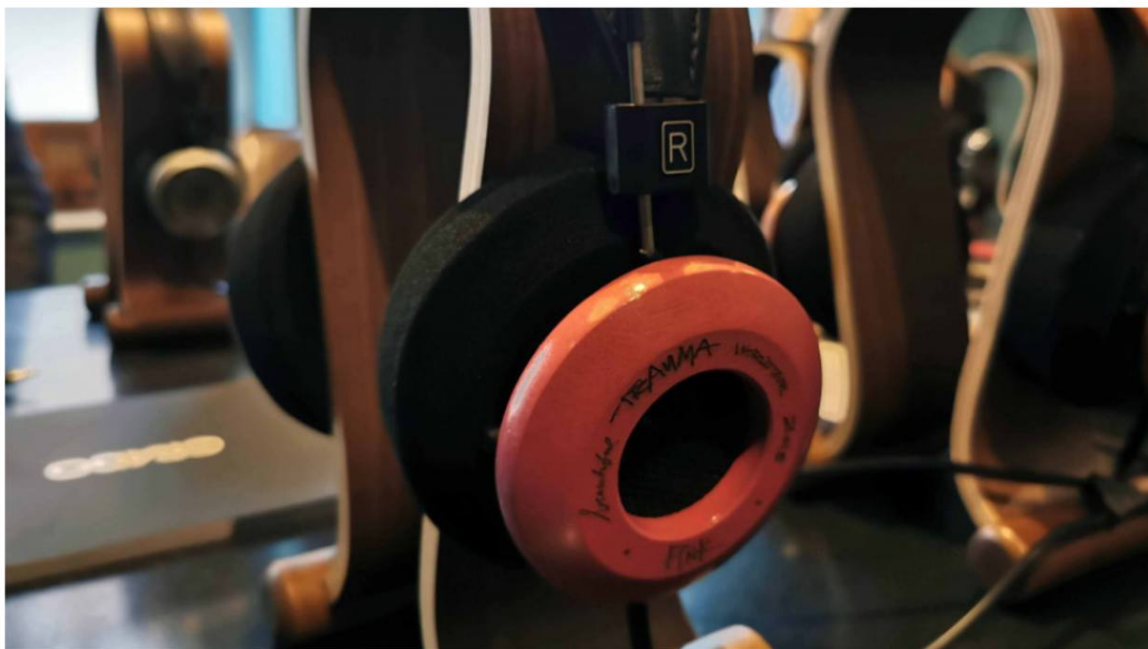
Then we tried the the Grado GS1000e. We put on a limited edition variant of these called the [Grado White Head phone](#), which were made to celebrate the Beatles White Album and will only be available until the end of 2019. The sound was warm and crisp (they're made from maple), but there was a decent amount of oomph - DJ Shadow's bass line hit hard throughout.

The final pair we tried were the [Statement GS 3000e headphones](#) (RRP £1,615.50). These are jaw droppers. They are made from Cocobolo wood (rare) and the sound was simply spine-tingling.

But now to the celebs. Here are a selection of the cans we saw and the A-listers they belong to...

- [Best wireless headphones](#) 2019: the best Bluetooth headphones around
- The [best in-ear headphones](#) 2019: best earbuds, wired and wireless

1. A Pair For Pink



Pink's distinctive scrawl is all over these Grado headphones. Unsurprisingly, the colour of them is also, er, Pink.

Shortlist

DEC 4 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 6)

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Pink's distinctive scrawl is all over these Grado headphones. Unsurprisingly, the colour of them is also, er, Pink.

2. Grande Designs



We also were in touching distance of the pair that Ariana Grande has been given. These have been emblazoned with her name and also Reebok - she's been collaborating with the trainer company for a number of years now. A version of these was sold as a limited edition - with a fancy woven strap - but these are Grande's own and were given to her in January 2019.

3. John Mayer's Pair



Shortlist

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(IMAGE 3 OF 6)

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According to Grado, John Mayer had been using Grado headphones to help record his albums so it wanted to thank him with this custom limited edition headphone. Matthew Grado (the Grado family's youngest son) gave the pair to John in person, back in 2014.

4. Whiskey And Wood



These ones were actually sold as a limited edition, but they have a celeb hook - they were designed in collaboration with Elijah Wood in 2012. According to Grado, it was approached by Bushmills to make a headphone out of their whiskey barrels - it did and the headphones sold out in a day.

5. A Grado For Gallagher



Shortlist

DEC 4 2019

(IMAGE 4 OF 6)

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Now, seeing this one was a real treat - they have been made for Liam Gallagher and he hasn't even seen them yet! As you can see, they have his name and his partner, Debbie Gwyther, is on there as well.

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(IMAGE 5 OF 6)

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Shortlist

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Cold? Warm
up with hot
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THE WINTER WEEKLY: EDITION



POLAR BEAR! DON'T PANIC - THERE'S
A NUMBER YOU CAN CALL FOR THAT

"IF WE CAN THROW
THINGS AWAY, WE
WILL, EVEN IF WE
SHOULDN'T."

ANDREW MUELLER ON
DISPOSABLE PLASTICS

SEE PAGE 14



SOCKS CAN MAKE A SUCCESSFUL
PRESENT. NO, SERIOUSLY...



ADELBODEN: THE SKI RESORT THAT SHOULD BE YOUR NEXT BASE



Seasonal switch Layer takes

1 Winter fashion picks

The luxury industry is constantly shifting and changing as it responds to our equally fast-evolving lifestyles. But as we head into peak gift season, this newspaper will guide you to some timepieces that are, well, timeless – and to some looks for men and women that sit in that useful and cosy "inter-seasonal" world. It's a place where layers triumph and a soft overshirt or gilet will help you negotiate the journey from tram to office to wintery street. Plus, we'll furnish you with the best accessories from head to toe.

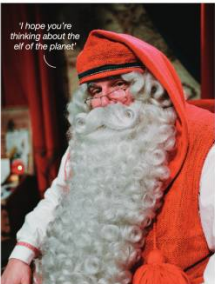
— Find out more from page 26

HUT'S AMORE Dining delight

1 Restaurant is mountain go-to

Even the goats are super chilled at the SanBrite mountain-hut restaurant. Tucked away in the Dolomites, this modest-looking establishment champions local produce and a healthy lifestyle – but it's the owners who have put it on the culinary map. Ludovica Rubbini runs the place with her husband, Riccardo Gaspari, who is also the chef; he's worked with the likes of Michelin-starred Massimo Bottura. Wanting a simpler life, the couple opened SanBrite, a mountain-side restaurant with a farm shop. This was where they could make the best use of their own cheese – and rediscover local ingredients such as lichen from the nearby forest.

— Main course on page 34



"I hope you're
thinking about the
elf of the planet"

Grotto heaven Naughty vs nice

- 1 Finnish Lapland's tourist boom
- 2 Fight to preserve wilderness

Being the home of Santa Claus is a claim any good tourism marketer would love to have, which is probably why so many different cities and countries have competed for the rights to winter's most famous figure over the years. The legend of Santa is based on Saint Nicholas of Myra, a 4th-century bishop who lived in what is now Turkey and loved to hand out gifts to poorer families (people still flock to visit his



remains in the coastal town of Demre). In the German-speaking world, the idea of a Christkind (child of Christ) was inspired by 16th-century reformer Martin Luther, then popularised by later Protestants as an alternative to the Catholic Saint Nick, who is celebrated on 6 December. But the sweepstakes for today's jollier version of Santa Claus, who lives in the North Pole with elves and reindeer to help him meet his gift-giving remit, began with an 1866 caricature in US magazine *Harper's Weekly*. Among the biggest remaining rival homes for Santa is Rovaniemi, the capital of Finnish Lapland. But with tourism booming, locals are asking one question: how do you manage the home of the world's most famous folk legend in a sustainable way?

— Full (festive) story on page 02

BIG PLANS Feeling grand

1 Euroboden's new Berlin home

Perfectly preserved 19th-century mansions aren't your typical Berlin building stock but progressive German property developer Euroboden tends not to deal in the typical. When the Munich-based company decided to establish an outpost in Berlin, it searched for a space that would not only intrigue its visiting clients but also make a fine environment for staff working there. Through a sensitive overhaul of a magnificently maintained mansion, the brief has been answered. Workplace design is a tricky business but by employing UK architect David Kohn, who took cues from his homeland's classic housing styles to inform the office layout, Euroboden's new digs are as striking as they are surprising.

— Full report on page 22



The Weekly Column
by Tyler Brülé



Festive insight

- 1 Editor in chief does Vegas
- 2 Christmas on the newsstand
- 3 Perfect present? Print

A couple of days ago I did a quick scan of the newsstands at Los Angeles Airport as I prepared to board my flight to Las Vegas. "Las Vegas?" I hear you ask. "Why on earth were you going to Las Vegas?"

It's a very good question and I was pondering the topic at 06:00 in the United Airlines terminal while poking around Hudson News. When, about a year ago, I was asked if I'd speak at a publishing conference on *MONOCLE*'s brand evolution, it seemed like a perfectly good idea. The organisation responsible is one of the most important in our industry (print media) and I felt I had one or two things to offer. For some reason I thought this big powwow was going to be in a publishing city such as Paris, Frankfurt or London and didn't pay much attention to where it was being held. I just hit reply and tapped out a few lines saying that I'd be happy to attend. Several months later a countdown email arrived, designed to fire up interest. It was then that I noticed I was heading to Las Vegas. Oh dear. Oh well.

— Continued on page 14

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Monocle Winter Weekly

NOV 26 2019

(IMAGE 1 OF 2)

CIRCULATION:

100K



In the frame: Join Robert Bond for a weekly digest of art, film and media. *Monocle on Culture*. Tune into Monocle 24 or download the podcast. monocle.com/radio

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Burmester surround-sound systems in some of its models since 2009. As well as Mercedes, Burmester works with Bugatti and Porsche: fruitful partnerships, Henke admits, that have helped the company survive "the bad times".

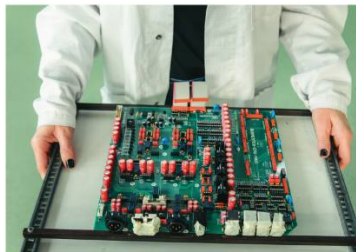
The home-audio-equipment industry has changed dramatically since Dieter Burmester made his first self-designed amplifiers back in the late 1970s. Whereas once a traditional customer was an audiophile who read specialist music magazines, went to a dealer and then bought a system, now bricks-and-mortar dealerships are on the decline – and home-audio systems are no longer the status symbol that they were between the 1970s and 1990s. "It used to be: the bigger the speakers the more prestigious," says Henke. "Today it's the other way around: everything goes into the walls or behind the shelves. It's a non-issue for many people. They spend their money on watches, cars and art but not stereos."

Since Henke joined Burmester in 2017, having previously worked as a marketing director at Porsche, he has made it his mission to "raise the appetite" for high-end audio products. "There are lots of people who want the best of everything but hi-fis are not on their agenda," he says. He is also planning to move all production to a custom-made building, partly designed by Berlin-based studio SAN Gonzalez Haase (Burmester will hold an architecture competition to decide on the building's exterior). The result will be a facility that reflects the company's core values. "At the moment, if you come to the Burmester building it's below the expectation that you would have given our price point and image," he says. "[The new building] has to have the same discipline and logic that you see when you open a Burmester product."

Beyond that, the company has been in talks with a number of technology companies about producing ultra high-end mobile-phone accessories. Plus, 20 years after its founder initially sketched a design for a pair of headphones he will finally be delivering its first set of headphones to customers in the spring of 2020. Dedicated audiophiles are sure to be all ears.



"On the one hand we're a technology company but on the other we're a stubborn 'let's do it the old way' business that takes a lot of time to finish products"



animal tracks. It is easy to see why many people have asked Bollmann to make an English edition of the German-only magazine – although it is a pleasure to flick through no matter the language.

As tourism in Switzerland grows, it seems *Transhelvetica*'s fortunes are set to rise. Most foreign visitors are hungry for short breaks beyond well-trodden destinations. By paying homage to small cities such as Biel (a bilingual town on the border of German-speaking and French-speaking cantons) or spotlighting



Many people have asked co-founder Jon Bollmann to make an English edition of 'Transhelvetica' – although it is a pleasure to flick through no matter the language

the country's many quirks (such as subterranean glaciers and a bunker museum), the issues always deliver on unpredictability, often surprising Swiss citizens themselves. Ultimately, Bollmann says, that's *Transhelvetica*'s main goal: "Telling Swiss people about the cool things on their doorstep."



Clockwise from far left: Graphic designer at work; *Transhelvetica* covers; welcome to office; examining the artwork; co-founder Jon Bollmann with the magazine's poster edition



AUDIO / GLOBAL

Sonic boon

We turn up the volume on 10 high-end headphones, portable speakers and streaming devices making a big noise this winter.

WRITERS David Phelan, Nic Moniz, Louis Harnett O'Meara PHOTOGRAPHER Tony Hay



1. Astell & Kern SEero

This reassuringly chunky and solidly designed music player uses advanced chips, previously saved for state-of-the-art home audio systems, which result in a remarkable sound. It feels great in the hand too. astellkern.com

2. Grado GWoo

Grado's open-back headphones are best when you've no one nearby to disturb – though this pair, the company's wireless debut, are less leaky than previous models. The openness allows for an airy, spacious sound. grado.co.uk

3. Ruark R5

The rather handsome R5 has a front-loading CD slot plus radio (FM and DAB+), connections for a turntable and, of course, Bluetooth and wi-fi. The sound is wide and authoritative, with strong mid-range rather than excessive bass. ruarkaudio.com

4. Dan Clark Audio Ether C Flow 1.1

These heavy-duty Californian 'phones can distinguish even the subtlest of sounds. Demand is high among audiophiles and the hard-to-acquire parts mean there's an order lead time of two to four weeks. danclarkaudio.com

5. Naim Mu-so 2nd Generation

As single speakers go, the Mu-so's audio quality is room filling and powerful, with strong stereo separation and a rich, warm tone. The versatile unit can play music from multiple sources, including streaming services and television, while its classy aluminium build and tactile control dial are pleasing. naimaudio.com

6. Bang & Olufsen H9

Bso's H9 wireless headphones look stylish and have a long battery life. A touch-sensitive pad on the earcup allows you to answer phone calls or change tracks without taking your phone out of your pocket. Comfortable though they are, it's the sumptuous audio that stands out. bang-olufsen.com

7. Davone Audio Mojo

Handmade in Denmark, this sculptural speaker has a Scandi attention to detail in both audio and mid-century aesthetic. Its 360-degree sound projection adds a serious kick to your home-movie soundscapes. davoneaudio.com

8. Apple AirPods Pro

Apple's wireless in-ear headphones have been redesigned with silicone ear tips and active noise-cancelling, which is outstanding. One squeeze of the earbud switches to a transparency mode and lets the outside world in without the listener having to take the AirPods out of their ears. apple.com

9. RHA True Connect

Though great for music, RHA's high-quality wireless in-ear buds are also handy for making calls thanks to dual inbuilt microphones. The long battery life and sleek aluminium case for protection and charging makes them great for the road. rha-audio.com

10. AudioFly AF240

AudioFly is an Australian brand known for its on-stage audio kit. Its AF240s have a rich, detailed sound. They're comfortable, thanks to noise-isolation memory foam and a self-adjusting headset, but also lightweight courtesy of a polycarbonate body and alloy arms. audiofly.com

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TRENDING Black Friday Gift Guide Awards 2019 Sony WF-1000XM3 Marantz PM7000N PS5

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11 best Christmas gift ideas under £200

By Jon Crampin 17 minutes ago Feature

Stuck for Christmas gift ideas? We have some suggestions



(Image credit: Future)

We have already listed our favourite Christmas gift ideas £50-£100, but if you are prepared to spend a little more, you'll find an even greater choice of quality AV kit to gift to your friends and family this year.

Our latest guide includes an awesome pair of budget standmount speakers, a brilliant Blu-ray player, a terrific tablet, a 4K TV streaming box, a box set for Star Wars fans... and a partridge in a pear tree (possibly).

- Christmas Gift Guide 2019: the best tech gift ideas for music and movie fans
- 10 best Christmas gifts under £50

Dali Spektor 2



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- 3 12 of the best Black Friday deals you can buy right now
- 4 Bose smart speaker impresses with 360-degree sound
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What Hi-Fi?

Nov 18 2019

(IMAGE 1 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: 5.08M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: 15.8K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: 78





(Image credit: Dali)

If someone you know could do with a top-class pair of budget standmounters to bring them some Christmas cheer, these Dali Spektor 2s could be just the thing.

There's a pleasing level of detail and a great sense of organisation. The **Dali Spektor 2s** deliver music with considerable finesse, precision and energy, which means they're guaranteed to get the Christmas party started.

RECOMMENDED VIDEOS FOR YOU...

WHAT HI-FI?



Today's best Dali Spektor 2 deals

★★★★★ 22 Amazon customer reviews



WHAT HI-FI?



WHAT HI-FI?

£199

VIEW



WHAT HI-FI?



WHAT HI-FI?

£199

VIEW

What Hi-Fi?

Nov 18 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

5.08M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

15.8K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

78

		£199	VIEW
		£199	VIEW

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Grado GW100



(Image credit: Future)

These **Grado GW100** wireless headphones might not suit everyone – they're open-back, which means they leak sound both in and out – but if you know someone who likes listening to music while pottering around the house or garden, they are ideal.

The plus side is a performance that's Grado through and through, meaning those favourite classic Christmas tunes will come across loud and clear.

Today's best Grado GW100 deals

★★★★ 7 Amazon customer reviews

		£159.99	VIEW
		£169	VIEW
		£169	VIEW

What Hi-Fi?

Nov 18 2019

(IMAGE 3 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **5.08M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **15.8K**

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WHAT HI-FI?

WHAT HI-FI?

£169

VIEW

WHAT HI-FI?

WHAT HI-FI?

£169

VIEW

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Sony UBP-X700



A price drop has brought this Award-winning Sony 4K Blu-ray player under the £200 mark, meaning that as well as a superb picture, the **UBP-X700** makes watching 4K discs an affordable reality.

It supports all forms of HDR, including Dolby Vision, which means it should be futureproofed for many Christmas movie sessions to come.

Today's best Sony UBP-X700 deals

★★★★★ 113 Amazon customer reviews

REDUCED PRICE

WHAT HI-FI?

WHAT HI-FI?

~~£270~~
£186.15

VIEW

WHAT HI-FI?

WHAT HI-FI?

£189

VIEW

WHAT HI-FI?

WHAT HI-FI?

£189

VIEW

What Hi-Fi?

Nov 18 2019

(IMAGE 4 OF 9)

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WHAT HI-FI? WHAT HI-FI? £189 VIEW

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Roberts Stream 94i



With its appealing retro design and a feature set that includes DAB, FM, internet radio and Bluetooth, the **Roberts Stream 94i** radio is the perfect all-round package. And, with Spotify Connect built-in, the Stream 94i allows you to stream your own tunes over a network.

Know a relative whose music system needs bringing into the 21st Century? This modern twist on the classic radio could be the perfect Christmas gift.

Today's best Roberts Stream 94i deals

★★★★★ 1 Amazon customer review

WHAT HI-FI? WHAT HI-FI? £158.99 VIEW

WHAT HI-FI? WHAT HI-FI? £168.99 VIEW

WHAT HI-FI? WHAT HI-FI? £179 VIEW

WHAT HI-FI? WHAT HI-FI? £179 VIEW

What Hi-Fi?

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DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **78**

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Star Wars: Episodes I-VI Steelbook Collection (Blu-ray)



(Image credit: Amazon)

Your friends and family might have watched *Star Wars* more times than they care to admit, but for the true fan, the films will never get old.

Even if they already have one or two discs in their collection, this set of *Star Wars Steelbook Blu-rays* will be an awesome upgrade. If you're thinking of buying a Blu-ray DVD box set this Christmas, you won't go wrong with this.

Sony PS-LX310BT



What Hi-Fi?

Nov 18 2019

(IMAGE 6 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **5.08M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **15.8K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **78**









(Image credit: Sony)

The **Sony PS-LX310BT** is an excellent 'my first turntable' option, but it's much more than that. This fully automatic deck is one of the best around at this price.

Other players might offer a superior sound, but this Sony makes up for it with a built-in phono stage and Bluetooth. It's also ridiculously user-friendly, resoundingly listenable and fun – which counts for a lot at Christmas, right?

Today's best Sony PS-LX310BT deals

★★★★★ 40 Amazon customer reviews

		£188.49	VIEW
		£189	VIEW
		£189	VIEW
		£194	VIEW

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Audiolab M-DAC nano



(Image credit: Audiolab)

What Hi-Fi?

Nov 18 2019

(IMAGE 7 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **5.08M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **15.8K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **78**

image credit: reverb.com

Sure, your present won't stand out in the pile under the tree, but it's not all about the size of the package, as the **Audiolab M-DAC nano** proves.

If someone you know wants to improve their sound on the move, then you won't find a similarly priced DAC alternative that is so convenient, yet so capable.

Today's best Audiolab M-DAC nano deals

		£145	VIEW
		£149	VIEW
		£149	VIEW
		£149	VIEW

[SHOW MORE DEALS ▼](#)

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Apple TV 4K



Know someone who's recently bought a 4K TV? Well, this Christmas could be the time to give them some 4K content to play on it. The **Apple TV 4K** streamer boasts impressive picture and sound quality and has an attractive user interface.

But the main attraction of Apple's box of streaming tricks is its huge library of movies - many of which are available in 4K HDR - and some of which are

What Hi-Fi?

Nov 18 2019









(IMAGE 8 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:	5.08M
(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:	15.8K
DOMAIN AUTHORITY:	78



but the main attraction of Apple's box of streaming ticks is its huge library of movies – many of which are available in 4K HDR, and some of which are Christmas classics.

Today's best Apple TV 4K deals

		£159.99	VIEW
Deal ends Thu, Nov 28			
		£179	VIEW
		£179	VIEW
		£179	VIEW
SHOW MORE DEALS ▼			

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Apple iPod Touch (2019)



(Image credit: Apple)

There are plenty of great portable music players around, but the latest **Apple iPod Touch (2019)** is still the one you'd want to find in your Christmas stocking this year.

The Touch does much more than just play music and, at this price, it's a bargain. This is the seventh generation of this modern classic, showing that, even in an era of smartphone streaming and premium hi-res PMPs, there is still a place for

What Hi-Fi?

Nov 18 2019

(IMAGE 9 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **5.08M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **15.8K**

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Grado Wireless GW100 review

Grado's first ever wireless headphones don't stray far from the company's class at home but not on the go

By [Dominic Preston](#), Tech Advisor | 13 Nov 2019

Should I buy the Grado GW100?

Expert's Rating: ★★★★★



If you love the idea of Grado headphones but can't countenance a wire in the year of Lord 2019, the Grado GW100 are exactly what you're looking for. They have all the strengths - and weaknesses - of Grado's core lineup, but cut the cord.

Use them at home and you'll love them, but try to take them out and you won't: everyone near you will hear your music, and you will hear everything else around you.

Price when reviewed

\$249

Best prices today

Retailer	Price	Delivery
Grado	US\$249.00	View

Price comparison from over 24,000 stores worldwide

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(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

6.27M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

12.5K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

86

✓ Grado GW100 full review

Grado is a company that makes really, really good wired open-back headphones that sound phenomenal - so long as you don't mind everyone around you hearing them too. That means they've always been best to use indoors, and on your own, where all that sound leak doesn't matter so much.

All of this is to explain why Grado took so long to get around to releasing a wireless version of its classic cans. People want wireless headphones that they can use on the go without forcing the whole train carriage to listen along with them (well, except AirPods owners apparently) and Grados were not that.

With the Grado GW100 wireless headphones, the company says it's managed to seal in the sound without losing the open soundscape. That sounds too good to be true - and to some extent it is - but these do deliver something close to what you'd expect from Grado, both good and bad, without a wire in the way.

Price and availability

The GW100 cost £199/\$249, which puts them closest to the company's SR225e model. You can grab them from Grado yourself (in [the UK](#) or [the US](#)), though they [cost less from Amazon](#) right now.

It puts them around the middle of our [best wireless headphone chart](#) in terms of price, and comfortably below the roughly £300/\$300 that you'd pay for the [Sony WH1000XM3](#) or [Bose Noise Cancelling 700](#) - they offer equally robust sound, but as high-end noise-cancelling headphones they're a very different beast. Unfortunately, since these are the only open-backed wireless headphones around, there's nothing else quite like them to compare to.

Tech Advisor

NOV 13 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **6.27M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **12.5K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **86**

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **6.27M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **12.5K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **86**

Design and build: The good, the Grado, and the ugly

The Grado GW100s look like every other pair of Grados out there (at least from the core Prestige range) - and thank Grado for that.

The company has an aesthetic that's about as iconic as any audiophile headphone company could muster, and has wisely chosen not to upset the boat for its wireless model. At first glance you could mistake these for any of the company's core lineup, just without the cord.

That means round on-ear cups (in black, natch) with a grille finish, silver-y detailing, and black foam ear pads. Antenna-esque metal bars connect the cups to the thin leather headband (also black, there's a theme here).

It's an unashamedly old-fashioned design - dare we say it: 'retro' - that stands out amidst a sea of similarly minimalist modern headphones. They look like high-end audio gear rather than high-end tech, if that distinction makes sense, and immediately bring to mind vinyl collections and towering hi-fi stacks.

Even the controls are simple, with a power button and volume controls on the left cup, and that's basically it.

ten cup, and that's basically it.

Tech Advisor

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(IMAGE 4 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **6.27M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **12.5K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **86**

There's a downside to this too though. Grado has bravely kept its design almost unchanged through decades of design trends, but has missed out on most of the ergonomic improvements over the years too.

Worst are the foam earpads, which are light and breathable but equally itchy and scratchy, and do absolutely nothing to block out outside sound. Then there's the headband, which does little to distribute the headphones' weight, leaving the brunt of it on your ears themselves. I didn't find the GW100s uncomfortable the whole time, but a couple hours' consecutive use was enough to make me pretty eager to get them off.

All of this is basically to say: there are still Grados, for good and for bad. They look fantastic - to an old-fashioned taste at least - but there are compromises on



look fantastic - to an old-fashioned taste at least - but there are compromises on comfort, and Grado has made no concessions here to either modernity or the wireless form factor.

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NOV 13 2019

(IMAGE 5 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **6.27M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **12.5K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **86**

Audio and performance: Sounds worth sharing

Grado specialises in open-back headphones, which do exactly what they say on the tin: holes in the earcups allow sound to escape out the back. That's for good reason, as it creates a more expansive soundscape that's crisper and clearer, with no muddy mids mashing together.

The twin downsides are that those holes also let outside audio in (imagine the polar opposite of noise-cancelling) and that all that audio leaking it is, well, audible for anyone else nearby. The result is that open-ear headphones are



essentially not great in loud environments and are downright anti-social in busy ones, so they're really best for listening at home or anywhere else in private.

If that's what you want to use the GW100s for, then I've got great news for you. These sound *almost* as good as classic Grado cans like the SR80e, with a neutral audio profile, astonishing clarity, and a soundscape that's just as expansive - I'm sure Grado obsessives will be able to spot the difference, but most of the rest of us won't.

The bigger question then is whether Grado's audiophile audience will really be willing to trade the convenience of wireless for the inevitable drop in quality you get from Bluetooth audio - and pay a premium for it - but in this respect the company has done about as good as job as you could expect.

It's a shame that they only support Bluetooth 4.2 - not the higher quality 5.0 - but there is at least AptX support, which helps close the quality gap with the wired models - at least if you're using an AptX-compatible source, which doesn't include iPhones or iPads. There's also a 3.5mm headphone jack and an included cable, so wired audio is always an option too.

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(IMAGE 6 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **6.27M**

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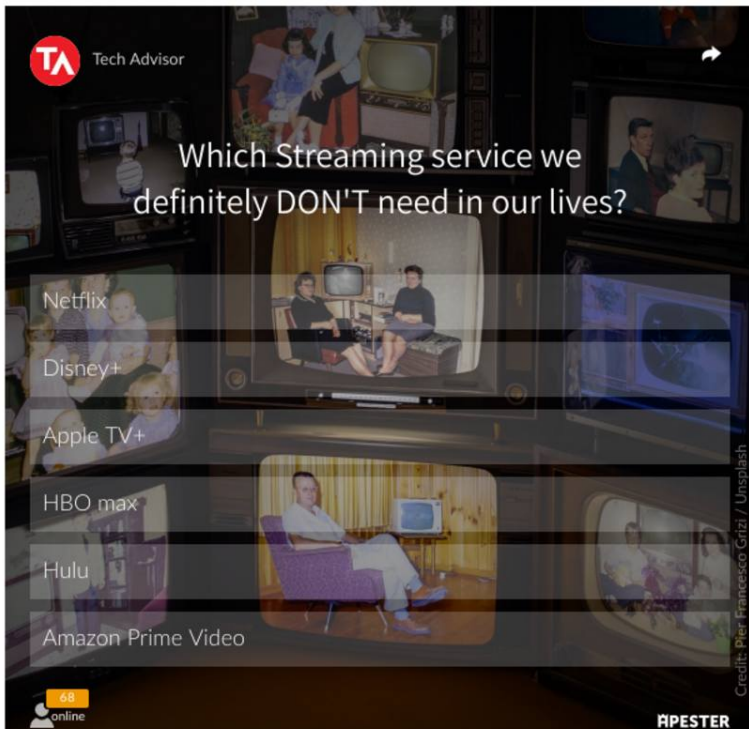
The problem is that Grado isn't just positioning these as wireless headphones for the house - they're also pitching them for day-to-day use everywhere else, and here they just don't hold up.

Through some miracle of engineering there is noticeably less sound leak than on the company's wired products, despite the similar sound, but there is still more than enough to irritate whoever's next to you on the bus or make you deeply unpopular in your office.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **6.27M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **12.5K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **86**



Even if you're enough of a sociopath to try and use these on public transport knowing that the sound will leak, things won't be much better on your end. The

knowing that the sound will leak, things won't be much better on your end. The same design that lets sound out also lets it in, so you will hear all the rattle and hum of your train, somewhat negating all the hard work Grado put into tuning the sound here.

Matters aren't helped by the battery life, which at 15 hours is fine but certainly not remarkable. The 'battery low' announcements don't kick in until they're close to dead too, so you'll want a Micro-USB charger to hand, and along with the 'power on/off' announcements they are set to be incredibly loud for some reason, just to annoy anyone nearby that little bit more.

Verdict

If you love the idea of Grado headphones but can't countenance a wire in the year of Lord 2019, the Grado GW100 are exactly what you're looking for. They have all the strengths - and weaknesses - of Grado's core lineup, but cut the cord.

What you shouldn't do is believe the company's marketing line that these have somehow squared the circle of delivering open-back sound without the leakage. There's less leaking than before, but still: everyone near you will hear your music, and you will hear everything else around you.

For better or worse then, these are Grados. Use them at home and you'll love them, but try to take them out and you won't.

[> Specs](#) [click to open](#)

Tags: [Audio](#)

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(IMAGE 8 OF 9)

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(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **12.5K**

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John Lewis voucher codes for November 2019

This John Lewis voucher code will help you save £10

Very Promo Codes this November

Buy Virgin Experience Days from Very with up to 50% savings

Currys PC World discount codes this November

Redeem this Currys discount code to save £100 on large kitchen appliances

Samsung Discount Codes This November

Get £769 off when you buy the 75" Q90R Flagship QLED 4K HDR Smart TV, plus get a Q-series Soundbar as a free gift

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Spend up to 70% less on furniture in this sale

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Home > Features

Best over-ear headphones 2019: great options to suit all budgets

By Tom Parsons (Louder) a day ago Louder

From ultra-affordable to ludicrously luxurious, these are the best over-ear headphones you can buy



(Image credit: Pixabay)

In-ear headphones are justifiably popular for their portability, but if you take sound seriously, the best **over-ear headphones** in this list are absolutely the way to go.

Bigger **headphones** can have bigger drivers that are inherently better at delivering bigger, naturally bassier sound. They don't burrow uncomfortably into your ears or make it sound as if your favourite tunes are being drilled directly into your cerebral cortex. Instead, at their best, they're like wearing a pair of fluffy earmuffs and listening to a live band play just for you.

That sounds good, doesn't it? But which pair of over-ear headphones should you buy? We've just presented you with our

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- 5 Kiss postpone start of Australian tour due to illness, cancel NZ show

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **3.77M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **11.2K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **79**



3



that sounds good, doesn't it? But which pair of over-ear headphones should you buy? You're just moments from finding out.

- Supercharge your listening with the [best headphones](#) bar none
- Or cut the wires with the [best budget wireless headphones](#)
- Less noise, more rock? Try the [best noise cancelling headphones](#)

Black Friday 2019 is fast approaching. Keep your eyes peeled to our [Black Friday headphones deals](#) page for the very latest offers on in-ear, on-ear, wireless and noise-cancelling headphones. If you're ready to buy today, our price comparison tool below has rounded-up the current juiciest prices for you to take advantage of today.



What are the best over-ear headphones right now?

If you're hunting for a shortcut to the very best over-ear headphones you can buy, there are two very different ways you can go – high-tech or old-school.

The high-tech option is the [Sony WH-1000XM3](#) headphones. These are wireless, closed-back, noise-cancelling headphones that sound brilliant and are suited to every scenario and sonic inclination.

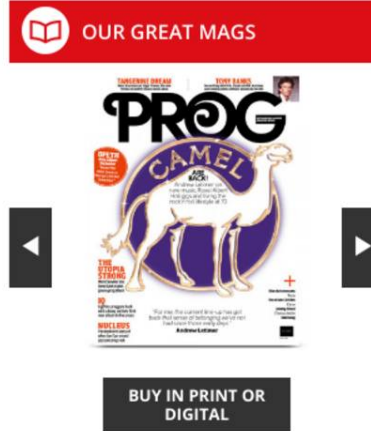
The old-school side is covered by the [Grado SR325e](#) cans. Wired, open-backed and only as technologically advanced as an acoustic guitar, these headphones are intended for hi-fi aficionados who do their listening at home. But while the Grados are comparatively restrictive, they're exceptional capable in a way that no amount of technology can replicate.

Today's best Sony WH-1000XM3 deals

★★★★★ 876 Amazon customer reviews

LOUDER	LOUDER	£205.99	VIEW
LOW STOCK	REDUCED PRICE		
LOUDER	LOUDER	£330 £252.88	VIEW
LOUDER	LOUDER	£269	VIEW
REDUCED PRICE			
LOUDER	LOUDER	£330 £269	VIEW

CANCEL NZ SHOW



Louder

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(IMAGE 2 OF 7)

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The best over-ear headphones: buying advice

The first thing you need to decide when looking for a new pair of over-ear headphones (once you've settled on a budget) is whether you want to go **wireless** or are happy sticking with wires. The market is very much heading in a wireless direction – not only are wireless pairs now more abundant than a beard at a **Rush** concert, phones are now the primary source of music listening and many of those no longer even have headphone sockets.

The good news is that wireless headphones can now be bought for very reasonable money, but it is worth bearing in mind that both wireless sound quality and battery life can vary greatly. Looking for a pair with a more recent version of Bluetooth (5.0 is the most recent, widely available iteration) can help in both regards, but isn't a guarantee. And if you can find a pair with the audio-focused aptX codec, you know that sound quality has at least been a factor in the design.

If you're going wired, you don't have to worry about gizmos and thingamajigs and can concern yourself with more tangible considerations such as the length and thickness of the cable, and whether the connector is the more common 3.5mm type that you find on a phone or the chunkier, more hi-fi-specific 6.3mm type. The good news is that the more premium hi-fi pairs often include an adapter, although buying one separately won't set you back much at all.

The other big thing to consider is whether you want open or closed-back headphones. Closed-back models are way more common now, as they keep the audio more or less confined to your noggin, while open-backed headphones generally leak enough noise that anyone in the vicinity will feel as though they're listening to the world's tinniest radio, which obviously isn't ideal for the bus. But open-back headphones also generally *sound* more open and spacious – more like listening out-loud to a full-sized hi-fi than two little drivers strapped to your head – so if you need to listen quietly but not silently, and take your music enjoyment seriously, they can very much be the way to go.

The best over-ear headphones you can buy right now



Louder

NOV 11 2019

(IMAGE 3 OF 7)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **3.77M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **11.2K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **79**



3



Louder

Nov 11 2019

(IMAGE 4 OF 7)

(Image credit: Sony)

1. Sony WH-1000XM3

Digital meets analogue in these brilliant, wireless, noise-cancelling cans

Price: £280 | Type: Closed | Bluetooth: Yes | Noise-cancelling: Yes | Mic: Yes | Controls: Yes | Battery life: 30hr | Connector: USB-C

- + Awesome all-round sound
- + Excellent noise-cancelling
- Slightly fiddly touch controls

LOW STOCK

£252.88 [VIEW AT AMAZON](#)

£269 [View at John Lewis](#)

£269 [View at very.co.uk](#)

[See all prices \(32 found\)](#)

[876 Amazon customer reviews](#) ★★★★★

Sony's third-generation **noise-cancelling** cans are simply brilliant. Not only do they block out more noise than practically any rival, they sound better, too, thanks to the introduction of analogue amplification.

There's an app that you can use to tweak the amount of noise-cancelling provided, from 'I don't want to hear anything but my own heartbeat' to 'I'd quite like to know if a car's about to run me over', and you can even set the headphones to adapt the noise-cancelling to the environment.

The exhaustive battery life means that even the longest of long-haul flights is covered, and the sound can even be optimised for altitude, ensuring you're always getting the best quality. The only tiny issue is that the touch controls can take a little getting used to, although they are pretty accurate once you do.



(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

3.77M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

11.2K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

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3

(Image credit: Grado)

2. Grado SR325e

Incredible hi-fi headphones for luxurious at-home listening

Type: Open | Bluetooth: No | Noise-cancelling: No | Mic: No | Controls: No | Battery life: N/a | Connector: 3.5mm, 6.3mm

+ Gloriously open, detailed sound

LOW STOCK

£249 [VIEW AT AUDIO VISUAL ONLINE](#)

+ Hard-wearing

- Not suited for portable use

£269 [View at Amazon](#)
[See all prices \(3 found\)](#)

- Don't look like they cost £250+

[240 Amazon customer reviews](#) ★★★★★

They might look more like the sort of headset that a 50s telephone exchange operator might use than a pair of luxury headphones, but these Grados are utterly unbeatable at this price.

The 325es are open-backed and leak noise like a sieve leaks water, so are completely unsuited to use on a train or bus, but that allows them to deliver a really open, airy and spacious sound that's more akin to listening to a great pair of hi-fi speakers.

And we really are talking great. The sound here is transparent, detailed, rhythmic and downright glorious. If you take your music listening seriously, this is the pair to get.



(Image credit: B&W)

3. Bowers & Wilkins PX7

These super-sexy noise-cancellers feature next-gen Bluetooth

Price: £350 | Type: Closed | Bluetooth: Yes | Noise-cancelling: Yes | Mic: Yes | Controls: Yes | Battery life: 30hr | Connector: USB-C

+ Classy as hell

£339 [VIEW AT VERY.CO.UK](#)

+ Fun and detailed sound

£349.07 [View at Amazon](#)

Louder

NOV 11 2019

(IMAGE 5 OF 7)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

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DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

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3



Fun and detailed sound

£349.07 View at Amazon

Expensive

£439.99 View at Littlewoods

Don't fold for storage

See all prices (5 found)

Few companies can boast the hi-fi heritage of Worthing's Bowers & Wilkins, and so any new B&W product is worth getting excited about. The PX7 noise-cancellers are even more exciting than most - not only are they the successors to the brilliant PX pair of a couple of years ago, they also boast a brand new type of Bluetooth.

This new aptX Adaptive Bluetooth allows for the wireless transmission of hi-res music and reduces lag so that audio and video are perfectly synchronised - great for when you're surfing YouTube for music videos. There are three levels of noise-cancellation, too, so you needn't block out absolutely everything if you don't want to.

The icing on the cake is absolutely brilliant sound. Solid, fast and punchy as anything, they're a great choice for a bit of **thrash**, but also have the detail and delicacy for those gentle acoustic moments. Other than the high price and lack of folding, these B&Ws are just brilliant.



(Image credit: AKG)

4. AKG K72

Brilliant big cans for those on a tight budget.

Price: £40 | Type: Closed | Bluetooth: No | Noise-cancelling: No | Mic: No | Controls: No | Battery life: N/a | Connector: 3.5mm

+ Awesomely affordable

£30 VIEW AT AMAZON

+ Really comfortable

£34 View at Bax-shop UK

- Not very portable

£45.06 View at Amazon

See all prices (4 found)

685 Amazon customer reviews ★★★★★

If you're looking for a serious pair of headphones on a tight budget, the AKG K72s could well be for you. These simple, big, wired cans are built for comfort

Louder

Nov 11 2019

(IMAGE 6 OF 7)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **3.77M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **11.2K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **79**



3



K72s could well be for you. These simple, big, wired cans are built for comfort and longevity – you could wear them all day every day and they would never irritate and wouldn't fall apart. AKG actually bends the cable 80,000 times to ensure it's as durable as possible.

That cable is three metres long, so perfect for listening at home. And while the size of the headphones makes them relatively unsuited to the daily commute, they are closed-back so won't irritate everyone else on the bus or train if the bulk doesn't put you off.

The sound is way better than the price would suggest and much more grown up than that of most similarly priced rivals. Open, airy and spacious, with plenty of punchy bass, you really can't go wrong with the AKG K72s.



(Image credit: Sennheiser)

5. Sennheiser Momentum Wireless

Third-generation Momentum Wirelesses are noise-cancelling kings

Price: £349 | Type: Closed | Bluetooth: Yes | Noise-cancelling: Yes | Mic: Yes | Controls: Yes | Battery life: 17hr | Connector: USB-C

- ⊕ Super-energetic sound
- ⊕ Great features
- ⊖ Comparatively weak battery life
- ⊖ Expensive

£349 [VIEW AT AMAZON](#)

£349 [View at very.co.uk](#)

£349 [View at John Lewis](#)

[See all prices \(8 found\)](#)

[334 Amazon customer reviews](#) ★★★★★

Sennheiser's Momentum Wireless headphones have been hugely successful over the last few years, and this MkIII version takes the range to new heights.

The sound has been vastly improved over that of the already excellent

Louder

NOV 11 2019

(IMAGE 7 OF 7)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **3.77M**

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DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **79**



3

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Grado

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(IMAGE 1 OF 2)



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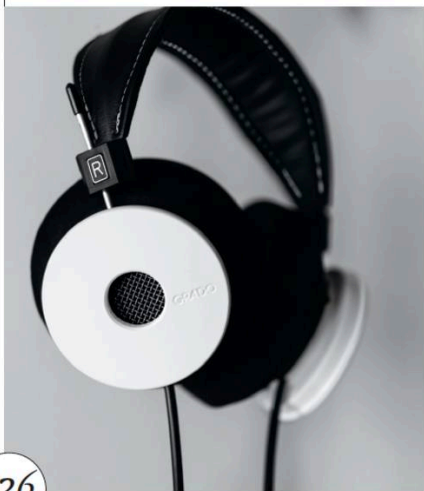
Grado

Nov 11 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 2)

Grado White Edition

Every pair from Brooklyn-based Grado's Prestige Series is hand-built and, if you like the look of oversized Polo mints on your ears, we can heartily recommend these limited edition headphones. Inspired by The Beatles 'The White Album', the highly collectible cans are made from brushed aluminium Grado say helps dampen distortion – an audiophile's kryptonite. The price seems steep, but under a grand for studio-grade open-back headphones is decent. **£795 / gradolabs.com**



Beats Powerbeats Pro

True wireless earphones that do away with wires between the buds are a hot tech trend and if you're indifferent to Apple's AirPods, five-star alternatives are plentiful. Sony, Libratone, Cleer, Cambridge Audio, RHA, and ethically made House of Marley are all worth considering, but Beats' best pair yet include AirPod tech for rapid pairing, outstanding audio quality, and a hook design to keep them in place. **£220 / beatsbydre.com**

enki chooses

budget

Greenwich Humber
£60, greenwich.design

mid-range

Transparent speaker
from £450, transparent speaker.com

money no object

Cowboy €1,990, cowboy.com

Home > Headphones > Grado SR80e review: The best-sounding headphones under £100?

Grado SR80e review: The best-sounding headphones under £100?

HEADPHONES Edward Munn @Ed7471 14 Oct 2019



Our Rating: ★★★★★

£87.95 from amazon.co.uk

Price when reviewed: £89 inc VAT

Dynamic and wonderfully detailed, these open-backed headphones are a delight to listen to but they're not for everyone

✓ Pros :

- Engaging, detailed sound
- Spacious sound
- Relatively inexpensive

✗ Cons :

- Leaky, open-backed design
- No passive isolation
- Some may find the sound too full on

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DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **80**

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What Hi Fi?

OCT 16 2019

(IMAGE 1 OF 2)

CIRCULATION:

26.3K



Headphones | £169 | whf.cm/gw100

Grado GW100

Despite their niche appeal, these open-back Bluetooth headphones are undeniable superstars

In some ways, the Grado GW100 headphones are as paradoxical as tech can get. They are wireless, so their untethered portability means you can listen to music out and about. But their open-back design leaks sound both in and out, making them less than ideal in outdoor environments and pretty anti-social in crowds.

These headphones are the first open-back model in the history of Bluetooth headphones. That's Grado's way, of course - the Brooklyn-based company doesn't have one closed-back pair in its Award-winning catalogue.

While the GW100s won't be for everyone or every situation, they will be perfect for those who want a pair for home environments, for pottering around the garden or listening to a Bluetooth turntable, when isolation from their surroundings isn't important.

And, within that niche capacity, they sound simply excellent for their modest £169 price tag - and unlike any other wireless headphones we've heard.

A battery half-life

The drawbacks of the GW100s include battery life, which is a claimed 15 hours based on 50 per cent volume and the type of music you're playing. Given that over 30-hours' endurance from wireless headphones is normal these days, that's not something to shout about.

The GW100s toe the Grado aesthetic line as closely as every pair has done since the first nearly 30 years ago. With their compact form, all-black guise and circular on-cup details, they're not as universally stylish as a pair of Beats or Boses, but are neat for their price. Build and operation (power and volume buttons and instant Bluetooth pairing) are more than satisfactory. They don't collapse or fold, being designed to be simply placed in the small plate-sized shell storage case they're supplied with.

Despite their similarities with previous Grado models, the GW100s' speaker housings and internals have been redesigned to serve their unique

KEY FEATURES



Battery life: 15 hours



aptX Bluetooth



Open-back design

The open-back GW100s have a niche appeal



wireless nature. Grado has worked to diminish sound leakage by up to 60 per cent. They are notably less leaky than the SR80e (£89) and SR325e (£269), but can still be heard a few metres away.

On the other side of the coin, what you're subjected to isn't always just your music. Wandering the streets, we find road traffic and planes flying overhead are audible at a normal listening level.

Still, it's such openness that gifts the GW100s a broad sonic canvas on which to deliver your music. Compared with closed-back pairs, they really do offer a sense of comforting airiness. It's like looking at the same painting on an A5 and an A1 canvas - the same details are easier to digest on the larger surface.

We head for Purple Mountains' *Darkness And Cold* and the wheezing harmonica has the space to riff freely away from the accompanying jangly guitars - all without sacrificing rhythmic synergy. The downcast lyrics contrasting with upbeat lamentation and melody come through with a clarity rarely heard through Bluetooth cans, and the level of insight on offer is more generous than we'd expect from a pair at this price.

They're pretty much opposite in character to the similarly priced B&W P5 Wirelesses, which favour a rich, punchy and bass-laden presentation that's naturally more direct and compact.

While some may prefer the P5s' thicker bass, the Grados possess the greater expression, clarity and more sophisticated balance. They lean slightly on the brighter side of the fence - but they're easy to live with once their out-of-the-box harshness has died down.

Grado's claim that "nothing is lost except the wires" is mostly true. Through the supplied cable, which has no in-line remote, the delivery is much the same, just blessed with a small extra dose of refinement and subtlety that serves as a reminder that wired is still the way to go if sound quality is paramount.

The Grado GW100s don't boast the features you'd expect from Bluetooth headphones, and their open-back nature means they won't be universally likeable either. But they have an undeniable niche appeal, backed by an excellent performance that's Grado through and through. If you're drawn to that combination, you won't be disappointed.

CIRCULATION:

26.3K

What Hi Fi?

OCT 16 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 2)

WHAT HI-FI?

RATING ★★★★★

SOUND



COMFORT



BUILD



FOR

- Unique openness
- Clean, transparent, lively sound
- Compact build
- Foolproof operation

AGAINST

- A little bright sounding;
- No in-line remote;
- Uncompetitive battery life

VERDICT

Grado's first pair of wireless headphones are truly excellent, but they won't be for everyone

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Grado The White Headphone (SR325e Prestige Series) review

Grado catches Beatlemania

★★★★☆ By Olivia Tambini a day ago [Headphones](#)



(Image: © TechRadar)

OUR VERDICT

There's a lot to love about the Beatles-inspired White Headphone, from its impressive soundstage to its stunning retro design. You won't be able to take these open-back cans on your commute however, and they're missing a few modern features you might expect at this price point.

+ FOR

- Striking retro design
- Fantastic audio fidelity

- AGAINST

- Lacking modern features
- Very expensive

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(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **43.1M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **49.8K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **92**



Fantastic audio fidelity
Comfortable to wear

Very expensive

Grado is a well-known name in the audiophile community; based in Brooklyn, the family-run company started out making phono-cartridges for record players in the 1950s, before branching out to headphones in the early nineties.

It's SR325e Prestige Series headphones where praised by our sister site [What Hi-Fi?](#) for their tonal balance and expressive dynamics; and now they've been upgraded for a special limited edition run.

The Beatles-inspired White Headphone certainly looks striking; but can they match the sound quality of their predecessor?

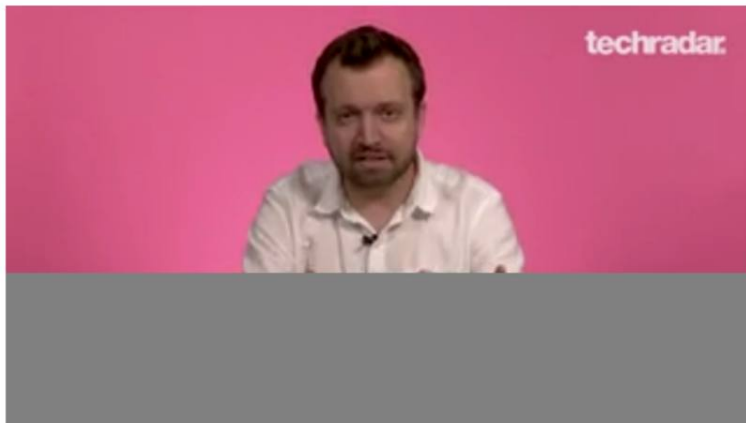
- Interested in Grado? Check out our [Grado GW100 Wireless Headphones review](#)

Price and availability

These limited edition Grado headphones will set you back \$795 / £795, which works out at around AU\$1170, based on current conversion rates. That's pretty expensive, even for a pair of audiophile headphones; for comparison, our current favorite model, the Sony WH-1000XM3 comes in at \$349 / £300 / AU\$499.

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Saying that, you're getting an overtly premium package with the updated Grado SR325e; they come with a special anniversary two-LP vinyl edition of The White Album by The Beatles – the iconic design of which served as the inspiration for these over-ear headphones.

As a limited edition model, the White Headphone will only be available to buy until the end of 2019. It's also worth bearing in mind that [Black Friday](#) is coming up very soon, and we could see that price drop during the massive sales event.

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49.8K

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STARScream

up very soon, and we could see that price drop during the massive sales event.

- [Black Friday 2019: the date and deals predictions](#)



(Image credit: TechRadar)

Design

Talking about the design of these limited edition cans in a press release, Grado Labs President and CEO John Grado said: "Inspired by one of our family's favorite records, The White Headphone by Grado commemorates the power that an album – or even just a single song – may have on a person's life."

That Beatles influence is written all over these headphones, which sport a retro 60s design and striking black and white color scheme.

White platter outer enclosures made from maple frame the earcups, designed to provide a "fuller-bodied, deeper sound," according to Grado, while also amping up that sixties aesthetic.

It's not a look that will appeal to everyone, but there's no denying that these headphones look very impressive indeed – and it's plain to see how well-crafted they are.

Topping off these unique housings is the white-stitched leather headband, with its large, flat shape making these [over-ear headphones](#) feel comfortable to wear for long periods of time.

The foam ear cushions are also incredibly comfortable, with their bowl-like shape encompassing your entire ear for an open feel; you won't get any of that annoying clamping sensation with the SR325es, that's for sure.

A 12-conductor cable feeds into the earcups, finishing with a 3.5mm jack – if you'd prefer to plug into an amplifier, there's a 6.5mm gold adapter included in the box, too.



TechRadar

OCT 10 2019

(IMAGE 3 OF 7)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **43.1M**

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DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **92**





(Image credit: TechRadar)

Features and performance

If you're looking for features like noise-cancelation, Bluetooth listening, or built-in voice assistants, you'll have to look elsewhere; the Grado White Headphone are made for pure audio fidelity, and that means sacrificing some of these modern conveniences.

However, if you're after true audiophile sound, you probably won't miss things like wireless listening – these are headphones made for sitting at home, plugging into your music streamer, sitting back and listening to your [Hi-Res Audio](#) files.

Another aspect that makes these headphones unsuitable for outdoor listening is their open back design, which means the grille is exposed on the rear of the enclosure on each housing, allowing sound and air to move more freely in and out of the cups.

As well as allowing for a more open soundstage, this design does create a lot of sound leakage – so unless you want to treat your fellow commuters to the sound of your music every morning, you might be better off leaving the Grado SR325es at home.



(Image credit: TechRadar)

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(IMAGE 4 OF 7)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **43.1M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **49.8K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **92**

That sound leakage is totally worth it though – these limited edition over-ear headphones have a stunningly wide soundstage. Their 50mm drivers and cured outer enclosures, make for detailed sound, expertly separated frequencies and a warm overall tone.

In Childish Gambino's Redbone, warm subby bass bubbles up from the depth of the mix, while sparkling vocals sound clear and resonant; meanwhile mellow guitar riffs and shimmering chime-like keys drift in and out of the soundstage.

Moving on to Feels Like Summer, the SR325es masterfully convey dry percussive hits, warbling synths, softly brushed drums, and dirty bass lines as Gambino's lush vocal harmonies build throughout the chorus.

They also perform well on less structured pieces, like Perfume Genius' Slip Away, which features crunching industrial drums, warped synths, retro chimes, and cacophonous instrumental breakdowns.

It's not all about pop; the open-back design of these headphones lend themselves to the dramatic dynamic shifts found in Classical music; listening to Mozart's Symphony No.41(Jupiter), delicate flute and violin ostinatos contrast with thunderous timpani and booming brass sections, without sounding fatiguing.



(Image credit: TechRadar)

Final verdict

The Grado White Headphone are a joy to listen with, and they're bound to suit audiophiles who like to sit at home and listen to music.

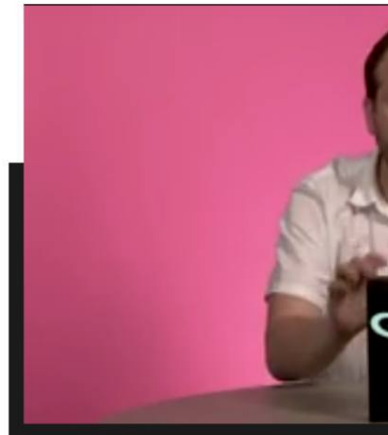
If you're looking for a pair of commuting headphones, though, the open back design and lack of wireless connectivity makes them unsuitable in this scenario – and you might be better off with the [Sony WH1000MX3 Wireless Headphones](#) instead.

They're also very expensive – although, you could argue that their striking design and premium materials make up for that price. Whether you should buy them really depends on how much you value the exclusivity of these cans –

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **43.1M**




(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **49.8K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **92**



them really depends on how much you value the exclusivity of these cans – they're only available until the end of 2019, so they truly are a collector's item.

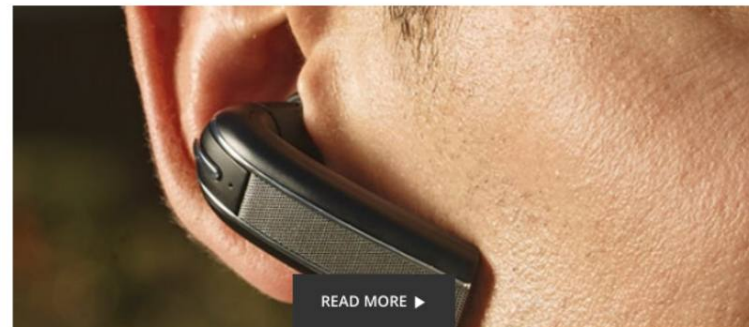
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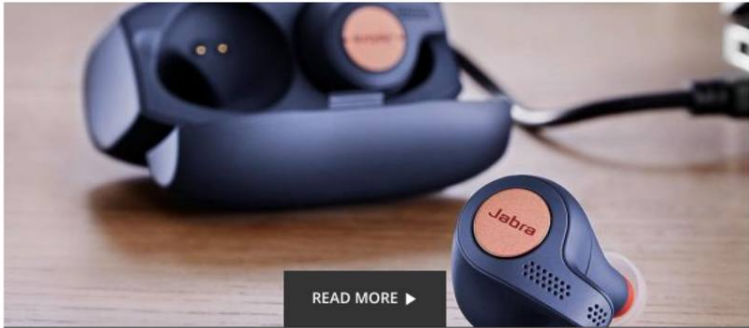
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Best on-ear headphones 2019: our pick of the best supra-aural cans

By Nick Pino 2019-09-20T15:14:49Z Portable Audio

On-ear headphones that sound great, look good, and feel comfy



Best On-Ear (Supra-aural) Headphones: Welcome to TechRadar's guide to the best on-ear headphones you can buy in 2019.

In the world of headphones, on-ear headphones (also called supra-aural headphones) are the middle child between bulky over-ear headphones and diminutive in-ear earphones. For most folks, they're just right.

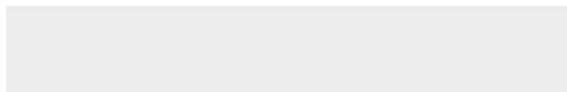
Their name comes from the fact that their cushions sit on, rather than over, your ears. This means they're more compact and can travel with you without taking up a ton of room in your bag. Conversely, they're bigger and more comfortable to wear for long periods than in-ear headphones.

The reason you'd pick this form factor over the other two, is that you're a traveler, a commuter or a home listener who needs a bit of noise cancellation without the bulk of over-ears. It's a winning combination, honestly, and a form factor that we've tested extensively over the years.

To that end, and to help you pick out a great pair of on-ear headphones, we've put together a list of our top-rated on-ear headphone reviews, so that you can do all your research and make a purchase in one place.

[Update: Bowers & Wilkins have just expanded their headphones range with the PX5 Wireless On-Ear Headphones. We've only tested them briefly, but we like what we hear so far - stay tuned for our full review, and to see whether they make the list of the best on-ear headphones.]

What are the best on-ear headphones?



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(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **67.4M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **77.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **92**



110



13



6



1. Grado SR60e

Truly excellent sound performance for a stellar price

Acoustic design: Open | Weight: N/A | Cable length: N/A | Frequency response: 20Hz-20,000Hz | Drivers: N/A | Driver type: Dynamic | Sensitivity: 99db | Impedance: 32 ohm | Battery life: N/A | Wireless range: N/A | NFC: N/A

- ➕ Very comfortable US\$79 [VIEW AT AMAZON](#)
- ➕ Impressive definition for the price US\$79 [View at Crutchfield.com](#)
- ➕ Highly recommended US\$107.70 [View at Newegg Business](#)
- ➖ No inline controls or microphone See all prices (5 found)

322 Amazon customer reviews ★★★★★

For your money, you can't do any better than Grado's SR60e. The third-generation of the Brooklyn, NY-based company's Prestige Series is its best and most refined yet.

The SR60e in particular is a smart choice if you're looking for an entry-level set of headphones that sounds like it should cost you way more than it does.

Their open-backed ear cup design makes them a more breathable experience than what most on-ear headphones can deliver, although this does mean that they're not ideal for use in loud environments where sound can 'leak' in and disrupt your listening.

That said, in terms of pure sound quality, they're our gold-standard when it comes to on-ears.

(Our review is for the SR60i, but the newer SR60e headphones are largely similar in design and performance)

Read the full review: [Grado SR60e](#)

[Update: We recently tested Grado's first ever wireless headphones. Check out our [Grado GW100 wireless headphones review](#) for everything you need to know before you buy.]



2. Philips Fidelio NC1

Executive looks with great sound reproduction

Acoustic design: Closed | Weight: 155g | Cable length: N/A | Frequency

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **67.4M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **77.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **92**



110



13



6



Acoustic design: Closed | Weight: 135g | Cable length: N/A | Frequency response: N/A | Drivers: 40mm | Driver type: Dynamic | Sensitivity: N/A | Impedance: N/A | Battery life: N/A | Wireless range: N/A | NFC: N/A

- ➕ Brilliantly balanced sound
- ➕ Great build quality
- ➕ Decent ANC capabilities
- ➖ Some sound leakage

US\$319.99 [VIEW AT AMAZON](#)

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6 Amazon customer reviews ★★★★★

There is a lot to love about the Philips Fidelio NC1 headphones: Not only are they a joy to wear and offer up great sound reproduction, but they're also one of the lightest and most compact ANC headphones around. They're best suited for frequent travellers who don't want to lug massive cans around with them all of the time but also don't want to compromise on sound quality. To that end, they offer superb sound that's balanced and warm and while I would love to see a wireless range, the cable offered in the mix is dextrous enough to not worry about it.

Read the full review: [Philips Fidelio NC1](#)



3. AKG N60NC Wireless

Wireless noise-cancellation from the mid-range master

Acoustic design: Closed | Weight: 199.4g | Cable length: N/A | Frequency response: 10-22,000Hz | Drivers: N/A | Driver type: N/A | Sensitivity: 111dB SPL/V@1kHz | Impedance: 32 ohms | Battery life: 15 hours | Wireless range: N/A | NFC: No

- ➕ Great sound
- ➕ Compact design
- ➕ Good battery life
- ➖ Initially confusing controls

US\$129 [VIEW AT AMAZON](#)

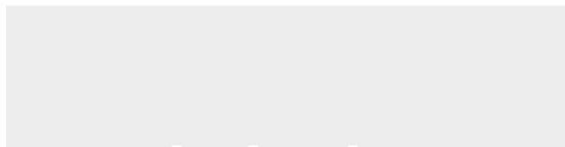
US\$139.95 [View at eBay](#)

US\$299.99 [View at Samsung](#)
See all prices (7 found)

80 Amazon customer reviews ★★★★★

In recent years AKG has dominated the budget and mid-range headphone space. While most other headphones at these price points chase after the bass-addicts, AKG has been content to stick to what it knows best; namely headphones that offer a balanced, refined sound you'd normally find in more expensive cans. With the AKG N60NC Wireless headphones the company appears to be stepping out of its comfort zone a little. The aluminium accented design is more flashy than AKG's usual fare, and the noise-cancellation combined with wireless operation pushes the N60NCs to the upper end of the company's normal price points.

Read the full review: [AKG N60NC Wireless](#)



(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **67.4M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **77.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **92**



110



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4. V-Moda XS

Street-wise wireless headphones with smart features

Acoustic design: Closed | Weight: 195g | Cable length: 32 inches | Frequency response: 5 - 30,000 Hz | Drivers: N/A | Driver type: Dynamic | Sensitivity: 105 dB | Impedance: 28.5 Ohms | Battery life: 18 hours | Wireless range: N/A | NFC: No

- ⊕ Detailed and balanced sound
- ⊕ Bullet-proof build
- ⊕ Compact for travel
- ⊖ Loose fit on the head

US\$140 [VIEW AT AMAZON](#)

US\$179.98 [View at Best Buy](#)

US\$202.21 [View at Newegg Business](#)
[See all prices \(6 found\)](#)

262 Amazon customer reviews ★★★★★

The V-Moda XS are the perfect travel buddy for audiophiles. It's balanced and detail-rich sound is a pleasure to listen to, plus, it's built like a tank. While the bass could use a little more impact, we had little complain about the sound. However, that said, the XS has a loose fit on the head and barely blocks out any sound, which isn't ideal for working out or for commuters. If you're a sedentary listener, however, these are great. In terms of competition, the [Klipsch Reference On-Ear II](#) are an excellent alternative that can block out more external sound. However, the trade off is the extended and exciting highs of the V-Moda XS as the Klipsch has more high frequency roll-off.

Read the full review: [V-Moda XS](#)



5. Master & Dynamic MW50

Luxurious feeling – and sounding – headphones for discerning listeners

Acoustic design: Closed | Weight: 240g | Cable length: N/A | Frequency response: 5-30,000Hz | Drivers: 40mm Beryllium Diaphragm | Driver type: N/A | Sensitivity: N/A | Impedance: 32 ohms | Battery life: 16 hours | Wireless range: 30 meters (98ft) | NFC: No

- ⊕ Build quality and materials
- ⊕ Sounds great with all music
- ⊖ Soundstage could be wider
- ⊖ Noise isolation isn't great

US\$299 [VIEW AT AMAZON](#)

[Check Walmart](#)
[See all prices \(3 found\)](#)

If you can afford the steep price, the Master & Dynamic MW50 will not

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **67.4M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **77.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **92**



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If you can afford the steep price, the Master & Dynamic MW50 will not disappoint. These headphones are a simply work of art and feel every bit as expensive as their price commands. They sound great with all types of music and are one of the most comfortable on-ear headphones we've ever tested. Those looking for value, however, will want to look elsewhere.

Read the full review: [Master & Dynamic MW50](#)



6. Klipsch Reference On-Ear II

An excellent-sounding pair of headphones without any frills

Acoustic design: Closed | **Weight:** .44 pounds | **Cable length:** N/A | **Frequency response:** 20HZ-20kHz | **Drivers:** Two 1.5" drivers | **Driver type:** Dynamic | **Sensitivity:** 110db | **Impedance:** 32 ohms | **Battery life:** N/A | **Wireless range:** N/A | **NFC:** N/A

- ➕ Wonderfully balanced sound
- ➕ Excellent build quality
- ➖ Cable noise
- ➖ Polite highs

US\$72.88 [VIEW AT AMAZON](#)

US\$199 [View at Adorama](#)

US\$199.99 [View at Crutchfield.com](#)

[See all prices \(12 found\)](#)

The Klipsch Reference On-Ear II is the follow up to the previous year's excellent Reference On-Ear model, a previous resident of this list. Admittedly, this year's model doesn't change much in terms of design or sound – but why fix something that's not broken?

That said, Klipsch kept it simple with the Reference On-Ear II, concentrating on sound, comfort and portability that will please audiophiles. Only diehard audiophiles will even consider this wired-only headphone after looking at the price tag, but those who value sound and comfort above all else will be happy with the Klipsch Reference On Ear II.

Read the full review: [Klipsch Reference On-Ear II](#)



7. Grado GW100 Wireless headphones

Grado makes the grade (again)

Acoustic design: Open | **Weight:** N/A | **Cable length:** N/A | **Frequency response:**

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **67.4M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **77.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **92**



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Acoustic design: Open | Weight: N/A | Cable length: N/A | Frequency response: 20Hz to 20kHz | Sensitivity: N/A | Impedance: N/A | Battery life: 15 hours | Wireless range: 10m | NFC: Yes

Today's best Grado GW100 Wireless Bluetooth Headphones deals

techradar
techradar
US\$249
VIEW
techradar
techradar
US\$249
VIEW
techradar
techradar
No price information
CHECK WALMART

We check over 130 million products every day for the best prices

- + Fantastic audio quality
- + Cool retro design
- + Comfortable
- Heavy sound leakage
- Slightly flimsy build

The Grado GW100s sound absolutely stunning; they boast an immersive, wide soundstage, clear highs, smooth mids, and extended bass frequencies. They also look great, with a kitsch, retro design that recalls Grado's humble beginnings in 50's Brooklyn – but, that said, that vintage-style look won't appeal to everyone, and they do feel a little flimsy.

Although the Bluetooth connection works very well, we are struggling to understand the need for a wireless pair of open-back headphones; particularly if the design makes them unsuitable for commuting or listening in communal areas. Still, having the option to listen wirelessly is undeniably convenient when you're pottering around the house, and audiophiles can use them with an AUX cable if they prefer.

Overall, we feel the Grado GW100s are designed for a fairly niche market of audiophiles who crave a wide, natural sound, and who do the majority of their music listening at home. If that sounds like you, you will probably love the Grado GW100s. If not, you may want to look at closed-back models instead.

Read the full review: [Grado GW100 Wireless headphones review](#)



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(IMAGE 6 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **67.4M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **77.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **92**



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8. Bowers and Wilkins P5 Series 2

These raise the bar for design and performance

Acoustic design: Closed | **Weight:** .42 pounds | **Cable length:** 3.9 feet | **Frequency response:** 10Hz-20kHz | **Drivers:** Two 1.5" drivers | **Driver type:** N/A | **Sensitivity:** 108db | **Impedance:** 22 ohm | **Battery life:** N/A | **Wireless range:** N/A | **NFC:** N/A

- ➕ Full, balanced sound
- ➕ Superb build quality
- ➖ Inline control is iOS only

US\$279.99 [VIEW AT AMAZON](#)

[Check Walmart](#)  [See all prices \(3 found\)](#) 

The Bowers and Wilkins P5 Series 2 aren't the most feature-rich option, but in terms of sheer sound and build quality, they easily raise the bar for the competition to follow.

They look fantastically stylish, and sound just as good. So long as you have the money, there's not much else in the on-ear market that can match this package.

Read the full review: [Bowers and Wilkins P5 Series 2](#)



9. Audio-Technica ATH-S200BT

On-ear headphones that are easy on the wallet, great on the ears

Acoustic design: Closed-back Dynamic | **Weight:** 190 g (6.7 oz) | **Cable length:** N/A | **Frequency response:** 5 - 32,000 Hz | **Drivers:** 40mm | **Driver type:** Dynamic | **Sensitivity:** 102dB | **Impedance:** 32 ohms | **Battery life:** 40 hours | **Wireless range:** 30 feet (10 meters) | **NFC:** No

- ➕ Decent sound
- ➕ Great price
- ➖ Tight on the ears
- ➖ Plastic look

US\$69 [VIEW AT NEWEGG BUSINESS](#)

US\$69.99 [View at Best Buy](#)

US\$70.99 [View at eBay](#) [See all prices \(14 found\)](#) 

You, like everyone else, probably wants a set of headphones that nails the tricky blend of design, useful features and incredible sound. You might think that you need to flush your savings to enjoy such a pair of cans. Protip: you don't.

The Audio-Technica ATH-S200BT are a well-built, great-sounding, long-lasting pair of headphones. Their features constantly outweigh their modest price and we can't get enough of that 40-hour battery life. While technological advancements usually mean a premium price, that's just not the case with the Audio-Technica ATH-S200BT.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

67.4M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

77.9K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

92



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Read the full review: [Audio-Technica ATH-S200BT](#)



10. Beats Solo 3 Wireless

Fashion-focussed cans that cater to bass lovers

Acoustic design: Closed | Weight: 215g | Cable length: N/A | Frequency response: N/A | Drivers: N/A | Driver type: N/A | Sensitivity: N/A | Impedance: N/A | Battery life: 40 hours | Wireless range: 30+ feet | NFC: No

- Excellent wireless stability **US\$139.37** [VIEW AT AMAZON](#)
- Good Bluetooth-phone interaction **US\$149.99** [View at Best Buy](#)
- Energetic, punchy sound **US\$159.99** [View at Walmart](#)
- Lack fidelity for the price [See all prices \(68 found\)](#)

52 Amazon customer reviews ★★★★★

While the Samsung Level On Pro Wireless are best paired with a Samsung Phone, these Beats headphones come into their own when paired with an iOS device thanks to its W1 chip that makes for excellent wireless connectivity.

At first glance, the Solo 3 Wireless appear almost identical to the Solo 2 headphones that preceded them. The majority of the changes Apple made to its class-leading cans come internally, baking its mobile phone know-how into these headphones to ramp-up their wireless skills and maximise battery life.

In terms of wireless performance, these \$299 (£249/AU\$399.95) headphones are as reliable as any out there. However, you can get significantly better sound quality at the price. (See: entries one through nine.)

Read the full review: [Beats Solo 3 Wireless](#)

- Check out TechRadar's exhaustive guides to the [best headphones](#) to buy today including the [best on-ear headphones](#), the [best in-ear headphones](#) and the [best over-ear headphones](#).
- For some more specialist pairs, take a look at our guides to the [best wireless headphones](#) and the [best noise-cancelling headphones](#). Our guide to the best true wireless earbuds is also here to help with the brand new form-factor.
- Looking for some headphones you can take in the pool? Check out our guide to the [best swimming headphones](#).

Round up of today's best deals

techradar

Grado SR60e

techradar

US\$79

[VIEW](#)

[See all prices](#)

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DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **92**



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techradar

Philips Fidelio NC1

techradar

US\$319.99

VIEW

See all prices

techradar

AKG N60NC

techradar

US\$129

VIEW

See all prices

techradar

V-Moda XS

techradar

US\$140

VIEW

See all prices

techradar

Master & Dynamic MW50

techradar

US\$299

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Klipsch Reference On-Ear

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US\$72.88

VIEW

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Bowers and Wilkins P5 (Series 2)

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Audio Technica ATH-S200BT

techradar

US\$69.99

VIEW

See all prices

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(IMAGE 9 OF 9)

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Home > News > Portable audio

Best headphones 2019: Your definitive guide to the latest and greatest audio

By Nick Pino, Olivia Tambini 2019-09-20T14:01:15Z Portable Audio

The best headphones in every style, for every budget



Image credit: Sony

PAGE 1 OF 2: BEST HEADPHONES 2019

Best headphones 2019: Welcome to TechRadar's round-up of the best headphones available to buy right now in every style and at every price point.

A good pair of headphones are an absolute essential for many of us. Aside from breathing new life into our favorite songs, they keep us entertained and distracted with music, podcasts and audio books when we're traveling to work, working out or just trying to disconnect from everyone else.

We spend a lot of time with our headphones – and if you're looking for a new pair, you're going to want a pair of the best headphones you can find.

It's our mission to hook you up with a pair of great-sounding headphones – the best headphones money can buy, even when you're on a budget.

We've put hundreds of headphones through their paces over the years of every make, model and variety to create list-after-list of the [best noise-canceling headphones](#), the [best wireless headphones](#), the best wireless earbuds, the [best earphones](#), the best over-ear headphones, and many more.

We encourage you to take a look at all the headphone lists here on TechRadar – however, if you're in a hurry and just

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SEPTEMBER UPDATE

The new iPhone 11 launch has come and gone, and we didn't see the rumored Apple over-ear headphones, the StudioPods.

We've just reviewed Sennheiser's latest over-ear headphones – check out our Sennheiser Momentum Wireless (2019) review.

We recently spent some time with the Bowers & Wilkins PX7 Wireless Over-Ear Headphones – and so far, we like what we hear.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: 67.4M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: 77.9K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: 92



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— however, if you're in a hurry and just want to find the best headphones your money can buy, you've come to the right place.

Below you'll find our selection of the best headphones for each form-factor, and we've even picked out a less-costly option for each so that a lack of finances won't stop you from finding a pair of headphones you'll truly love.



Image credit: [Burst](#) / Pexels

What are the best headphones to buy right now?

Here's a quick look at the best headphones this year:

- Best headphones 2019: [Sony WH-1000XM3](#)
- Best in-ear headphones: [1More Triple Driver In-Ear Headphone](#)
- Best budget in-ear headphones: [RHA S500u](#)
- Best on-ear headphones: [Grado SR60e](#)
- Best budget on-ear headphones: [Urbanears Plattan II](#)
- Best over-ear headphones: [Beyerdynamic DT 1990 Pro](#)
- Best budget over-ear headphones: [Audio-Technica ATH-SR5BT](#)
- Best noise-canceling headphones: [Bose Noise Cancelling Headphones 700](#)
- Best wireless headphones: [Jabra Elite 85H](#)
- Best budget wireless headphones: [Plantronics BackBeat Go 810](#)
- Best luxury headphones: [Focal Stellia](#)
- Best Bluetooth earbuds: [Optoma NuForce BE Sport4](#)
- Best true wireless earbuds: [Sony WF-1000XM3 True Wireless Earbuds](#)



Image credit: Sony

Best headphones 2019: Sony WH-1000XM3

The headphones that can do everything

Acoustic design: Closed | Weight: 254g | Cable length: 3.94 ft | Frequency response: 4 Hz-40,000 Hz | Drivers: 40mm | Driver type: Neodymium | Sensitivity: 104.5 dB / mW (1 kHz) | Impedance: 47 ohm | Battery life: 30 hours | Wireless range: 33 ft | NFC: Yes

• [Custom driver cancellation](#)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **67.4M**

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- ⊕ Outstanding noise cancellation
- ⊕ Fantastic sound quality
- ⊕ 30-hour battery life
- ⊖ Mediocre call quality

US\$348 [VIEW AT AMAZON](#)

US\$349.99 [View at Best Buy](#)

US\$448 [View at Walmart](#)
See all prices (59 found)

750 Amazon customer reviews ★★★★★

If there's anything surprising about the new Sony WH-1000XM3 it's that they're so consistent with what Sony has released in the last two years in the form of the [Sony WH-1000XM2](#) and [Sony MDR-1000X](#). To wit, they're a dominant noise-cancelling pair of headphones that can beat out anything Bose has with both arms behind its back.

That's because, while Bose has done a tremendous job working out its noise-cancellation algorithm over the years, Sony has spent that time perfecting audio playback while simultaneously creating an adaptability algorithm that doesn't just create a single sterile sound barrier, but multiple kinds that can adapt to whatever situation you're in.

Beyond being exceptional at keeping external noises at bay, these impressive Sony headphones are Hi-Res Audio-ready, sporting aptX, aptX HD and LDAC codecs, plus offer will offer Google Assistant support right on-board. If you need a headphone that can live up to any challenge and excel in any environment, these are them.

Read the full review: [Sony WH-1000XM3](#)



Image credit: TechRadar

Best in-ear headphones: 1More Triple Driver In-Ear Headphone

Your search for great sounding, good value headphones ends here

Acoustic design: Closed | **Weight:** N/A | **Cable length:** N/A | **Frequency response:** 20-40,000Hz | **Drivers:** N/A | **Driver type:** Dynamic | **Sensitivity:** 99 dB/mW | **Impedance:** 32 ohms | **Battery life:** N/A | **Wireless range:** N/A | **NFC:** N/A

- ⊕ Lush sound quality
- ⊕ Excellent build and design
- ⊕ Unmatched value
- ⊖ Plastic remote feels cheap

US\$69.88 [VIEW AT AMAZON](#)

US\$71.99 [View at Best Buy](#)

US\$79.99 [View at eBay](#)
See all prices (10 found)

914 Amazon customer reviews ★★★★★

After spending a few weeks with both the 1MORE Triple Driver in-ear headphones and the 1MORE Quad Driver in-ear headphones we were blown away at just how much value each one gave in their prospective price ranges.

For \$100 (£100, about AU\$168), it's hard to think of a better sounding and built headphone than the 1MORE Triple Driver. (That said, if you want just that little extra refinement and luxury materials, the 1MORE Quad Drivers are still a

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **67.4M**

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extra refinement and luxury materials, the 1MORE Quad Drivers are still a bargain at twice the price.)

There's very little we can fault the Triple Drivers for. Its rubber cable is annoying and its remote control feels cheap but these are just nitpicks. But, for its price, it's impossible to do better than 1MORE's Triple Driver in-ear headphones.

Read the full review: [1More Triple Driver In-Ear Headphone](#)

- Want more options? Check out our full guide to the [best in-ear headphones](#).



Image credit: TechRadar

Best budget in-ear headphones: RHA S500u

Great-sounding, incredibly cheap in-ear headphones

Acoustic design: Closed | **Weight:** 14 grams | **Cable length:** 1.35m, dual material | **Frequency response:** 16-22,000Hz | **Drivers:** Micro Dynamic | **Driver type:** Dynamic | **Sensitivity:** 100dB | **Impedance:** 16 ohms | **Battery life:** N/A | **Wireless range:** N/A | **NFC:** N/A

- ⊕ Excellent build quality
- ⊕ Balanced, rich audio
- ⊖ Sibilant at times
- ⊖ Narrow soundstage

US\$31.64 [VIEW AT AMAZON](#)

[Check Walmart](#) [See all prices \(3 found\)](#)

If you have a tendency to lose or break headphones but still value sound quality, it's hard to think of a better value than the RHA S500u. These headphones have no business sounding so good for the price: Sound quality is balanced with a slight mid-bass bump. Bass is slightly emphasized but not egregiously and features good impact while maintaining good control. And highs, while sibilant at times, makes music sound more exciting.

Read the full review: [RHA S500u](#)

- Want more options? Check out our guide to the [best headphone deals](#).



Image credit: Coda

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **67.4M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **77.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **92**



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Image credit: Grado

Best on-ear headphones: Grado SR60e

Truly excellent sound performance for a stellar price

Acoustic design: Open | Weight: N/A | Cable length: N/A | Frequency response: 20Hz-20,000Hz | Drivers: N/A | Driver type: Dynamic | Sensitivity: 99db | Impedance: 32 ohm | Battery life: N/A | Wireless range: N/A | NFC: N/A

- ⊕ Very comfortable
- ⊕ Impressive definition for the price
- ⊕ Highly recommended
- ⊖ No in-line controls

US\$79 [VIEW AT AMAZON](#)

US\$79 [View at Crutchfield.com](#)

US\$107.70 [View at Newegg Business](#)

[See all prices \(5 found\)](#)

322 Amazon customer reviews ★★★★★

For your money, you can't do any better than Grado's SR60e. The third-generation of the Brooklyn, NY-based company's Prestige Series is its best and most refined yet. The SR60e in particular is a smart choice if you're looking for an entry-level set of headphones that sounds like it should cost you way more than it does. Its open-backed ear cup design makes them a more breathable experience than what most on-ear headphones can deliver. In a few words, it's our gold-standard when it comes to on-ears.

(Our review is for the SR60i, but the newer SR60e headphones are largely similar in design and performance.)

Read the full review: [Grado SR60e](#)

- Want more options? Check out our guide to the best on-ear headphones.



Image credit: Urbanears

Best budget on-ear headphones: Urbanears Plattan II

A perfect value buy if you want headphones that are cheap and comfortable

Acoustic design: Closed | Weight: N/A | Cable length: N/A | Frequency response: 20Hz-20,000Hz | Drivers: N/A | Driver type: Dynamic | Sensitivity: 99db | Impedance: 32 ohm | Battery life: N/A | Wireless range: N/A | NFC: N/A

- ⊕ Very comfortable
- ⊕ Good value
- ⊖ Narrow soundstage
- ⊖ No volume controls

US\$39.65 [VIEW AT AMAZON](#)

US\$39.99 [View at Amazon](#)

[Low stock](#)

US\$132.42 [View at Walmart](#)

[See all prices \(15 found\)](#)

86 Amazon customer reviews ★★★★★

While the original Plattan headphones were just fine for a pair of on-ear headphones, Urbanears wasn't satisfied with being mediocre. The company took customer feedback to heart and addressed many complaints about comfort, sound quality and isolation. For the most part, Urbanears succeeded, making the Plattan II a worthy sequel to the company's most popular

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **67.4M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **77.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **92**



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making the Plattan II a worthy sequel to the company's most popular headphone.

In short, these are basic headphones without a ton of features. But, because they're feature-light, you get a good-sounding pair of wired headphones for significantly less than you would otherwise.

[Read the full review: Urbanears Plattan II](#)



(Image credit: Beyerdynamic)

Best over-ear headphones: Beyerdynamic DT 1990 Pro

Professional headphones that know how to have fun

Acoustic design: Open | **Weight:** 370 g | **Cable length:** 9.8ft or 3.9 ft | **Frequency response:** 5 – 40,000Hz | **Drivers:** N/A | **Driver type:** N/A | **Sensitivity:** 102dB | **Impedance:** 250 Ohms | **Battery life:** N/A | **Wireless range:** N/A | **NFC:** N/A

- ➕ Built like a tank **US\$456.99** [VIEW AT NEWEGG BUSINESS](#)
- ➕ Excellent comfort **US\$480** [View at Amazon](#)
- ➕ Breathtaking resolution **US\$599.99** [View at Walmart](#)
- ➖ Slightly recessed mids [See all prices \(10 found\)](#)
- ➖ Highs may be fatiguing [79 Amazon customer reviews ★★★★★](#)

While Beyerdynamic may not be as well known as its German brother, Sennheiser, the audio company has a history of creating some of the best sounding audio gear on the market – the company's DT770, DT880 and DT990 were renown for their excellent build and sound quality.

Above them all, however, stands the Beyerdynamic DT 1990 Pro, an open-back version of the [Beyerdynamic DT 1770 Pro](#), a headphone which won our Editor's Choice for its imaging, design and value for the money. Both headphones are priced the same (\$599, £589, AU\$1,159), so you won't find a deal picking up one over the other. The difference here comes down to sound.

As they're open-back, the DT 1990 Pro are meant to be used at home or in the studio for serious analytical listening. Sound is able to get in and out but the good news is that the open-back design gives you the DT 1990 Pro a great sense of space. Soundstage is quite wide, too, allowing even the most lackadaisical listener to pinpoint the exact location of where each instrument is playing.

If you've been searching for a pair of Hi-Fi headphones that are used by some of the world's leading audio engineers, these are them.

[Read the full review: Beyerdynamic DT 1990 Pro review](#)

- Want more options? Check out our [guide to the best over-ear headphones](#).

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **67.4M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **77.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **92**



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Image credit: Audio-Technica

Best budget over-ear headphones: Audio-Technica ATH-SR5BT

These over-ear headphones bring both performance and value

Acoustic design: Closed | **Weight:** .64 pounds | **Cable length:** 3.9 feet | **Frequency response:** 5-40,000Hz | **Drivers:** Two 1.7" drivers | **Driver type:** Dynamic | **Sensitivity:** 100 dB | **Impedance:** 35 ohm | **Battery life:** 40 hours | **Wireless range:** N/A | **NFC:** No

- ➦ Stellar battery life **US\$118.11** [VIEW AT AMAZON](#)
- ➦ Balanced sound **LOW STOCK**
- ➦ Wired mode sounds even better **US\$129.90** [View at Walmart](#)
- Highs can be too energetic **US\$149.99** [View at Best Buy](#)
[See all prices \(23 found\)](#)

149 Amazon customer reviews ★★★★★

Audiophiles typically shun wireless headphones because of poor sound quality. However, Bluetooth audio has improved tremendously over the years. There are now plenty of wireless headphones that can please the music enthusiast, with Hi-Res Audio support being more and more prevalent.

That said, the Audio-Technica ATH-SR5BT feature some of the best wired and wireless sound quality for a headphone under \$200 (£150). They play well with all music genres and offer a near-flat response curve. They're extremely comfortable for long listening sessions and are well built. Battery life is equally impressive with nearly 40 hours of playback from a charge. And while they lack some features of more expensive wireless headphones like active noise cancelling and multi-device pairing, these are tradeoffs worth making for phenomenal sound.

Read the full review: [Audio-Technica ATH-SR5BT](#)

- Want more options? Check out our guide to the best over-ear headphones.



Image credit: TechRadar

Best noise-canceling headphones: Bose Noise

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **67.4M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **77.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **92**



5



Best noise-canceling headphones: Bose Noise Cancelling Headphones 700

Class-leading noise cancellation, but not the best battery life

Acoustic design: Closed | Weight: 25g | Cable length: N/A | Frequency response: N/A | Drivers: N/A | Driver type: N/A | Sensitivity: N/A | Impedance: N/A | Battery life: 20 hours | Wireless range: 33 ft | NFC: Yes

- ⊕ Outstanding noise cancellation **US\$399** [VIEW AT WALMART](#)
- ⊕ Fun, lively sound **US\$399** [View at Amazon](#)
- ⊕ Elegant design **US\$399.99** [View at Best Buy](#)
See all prices (33 found)
- ⊖ Battery life could be better
- ⊖ More expensive Sony WH-1000XM3s

While we think the Sony WH-1000XM3s are the true best noise-canceling headphones, the Bose Noise Cancelling Headphones 700 are a close second – and for the sake of offering an alternative, we’ve included them in this list.

Traditionally, noise-canceling headphones have been designed to block out the environmental sounds around you, so that you can hear your music more clearly (or catch some shut-eye on a noisy flight).

This can be really effective if you’re listening to music. If you’re making a phone call however, the person you’re speaking to can still hear everything that’s happening around you, whether you’re standing on a busy street or trying to speak on a rumbling train.

The Bose Noise Cancelling Headphones 700 seek to remedy this, by applying noise-cancellation to phone calls as well as music, which is fantastic feature.

The sound quality is undeniably good, with a vibrant, lively character and well-balanced soundstage.

If you’re trying to decide between buying the Sony WH-1000XM3s and the Bose Noise Cancelling Headphones 700, we’d recommend going for the former because of that lower price and better battery life. That being said, you wouldn’t be making a mistake if you opted for the Bose cans instead (and we wouldn’t blame you if you did) – they sound great, look stunning, and the noise-cancellation is out of this world.

Read the full review: [Bose Noise Cancelling Headphones 700 review](#)

- Want more options? Check out our guide to the [best noise-cancelling headphones](#).



(Image credit: Jabra)

Best wireless headphones: Jabra Elite 85h

Giving Sony and Bose a run for their money

Acoustic design: Closed | Weight: 2960g | Cable length: N/A | Frequency response: 10 - 20,000 Hz | Drivers: 40mm | Driver type: Dynamic | Sensitivity:

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **67.4M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **77.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **92**



5



response: 10 - 20,000 Hz | Drivers: 40mm | Driver type: Dynamic | Sensitivity: N/A | Impedance: N/A | Battery life: 36 hours | Wireless range: 33ft | NFC: No

- ⊕ Class-leading battery life **US\$299.99** [VIEW AT WALMART](#)
- ⊕ Excellent ANC performance **US\$299.99** [View at Best Buy](#)
- ⊕ Stylish and comfortable **US\$299.99** [View at Newegg Business](#)
- ⊖ No support for high-end codecs [See all prices \(10 found\)](#)

Again, the Sony WH-1000XM3 are our true winners in this category, but if you want an alternative, the Jabra Elite 85h is it.

Offering class-leading battery life, terrific style and plenty of personalization when it comes to sound profiles, the Elite 85h is easy to recommend. That said, purists will bemoan the lack of high-end codec support and there are punchier headphones on the market at this price point. When you consider that Jabra's Elite 85h headphones are the company's first attempt at premium wireless ANC headphones, the result is quite commendable. We can't wait to see what the company's next premium ANC headphones will accomplish.

[Read the full review: Jabra Elite 85h review](#)



Best budget wireless headphones: Plantronics BackBeat Go 810

Solid, affordable, mid-range noise-cancelling headphones

Acoustic design: Closed | Weight: 0.64 lbs (289g) | Cable length: N/A | Frequency response: N/A | Drivers: 40mm | Driver type: Dynamic | Sensitivity: N/A | Impedance: N/A | Battery life: 24 hours | Wireless range: 100 meters (330 feet) | NFC: No

- ⊕ Excellent build quality **US\$139.99** [VIEW AT AMAZON](#)
- ⊕ Warm, balanced sound **US\$152.72** [View at eBay](#)
- ⊕ Reliable wireless connection **US\$160.88** [View at Walmart](#)
- ⊖ Average ANC [See all prices \(11 found\)](#)
- ⊖ Hiss when music isn't playing

For years, the [Plantronics BackBeat Pro 2](#) were one of our [favorite wireless headphones](#) because of their excellent sound, build quality and features. Unfortunately, though, they were also kind of expensive.

For a lot less (\$150, £140, AU\$240), Plantronics now sells the still-very-good BackBeat Go 810, which uses less premium materials but sounds nearly identical to its more expensive predecessor. That being said, we feel the Go 810 are an affordable pair of ANC headphones that will please travelers and commuters who don't want to spend too much money on headphones.

[Read the full review: Plantronics BackBeat Go 810](#)

- Want more options? Check out our guide to the [best wireless headphones](#).

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **67.4M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **77.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **92**



5

ELECTRONIC SOUND



THE ELECTRONIC MUSIC MAGAZINE

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JAPAN



MAKING MAGIC: THE JOURNEY FROM 'OBSCURE ALTERNATIVES' TO 'QUIET LIFE'

SECTION 25 - ADI NEWTON - ALICE HUBBLE - 65DAYSOFSTATIC - WAYNE COYNE - YACHT

ここにジョークを入れる

Electronic Sound

SEP 12 2019

(IMAGE 1 OF 2)

CIRCULATION:

10K



Electronic Sound

SEP 12 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 2)

White Noise

Limited edition cans by Brooklyn audiophiles

Heritage matters at the long-established US-based Grado Labs, whose top-of-the-range SR325e Prestige series on-ear headphones have just been given a limited edition makeover inspired by a classic 1960's long-player. Over three generations, the family-run outfit has been hand-making quality 'phones in the company's Brooklyn HQ since 1953 and they say that their new White Headphone "embodies the brand's approach to sound". Grado headphones already have a distinct 1960s styling, which they say is given a modern twist on these limited editions with the "clean white accenting" on the ear cups. No prizes for guessing which 1960s album CEO John Grado says is one of the family's favourites and the inspiration behind these gleaming lovelies. For some reason, and not all white things do actually do this, but these cans just scream The Beatles. Fancy a pair? How does £795 sound. Thankfully that includes VAT.

grado.co.uk



CIRCULATION:

10K

176 GADGET REVIEWS **INSIDE**

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SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 10

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Stuff

SEP 9 2019
(IMAGE 1 OF 4)

CIRCULATION:

40K

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S

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Notes from a small island

As is customary on a flagship phone these days, the Note 10 and its bigger bro are notchless and bezel-free, using a central punch-hole cutout for the front camera.

Notes receivable

At 151x72x7.9mm, the Note 10 demands less of your pocket than the Note 9 and weighs less too... yet pushing back those bezels has given this phone 10% more screen space.

Stuff

SEP 9 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 4)

CIRCULATION:

40K

CIRCULATION:

40K

U F F

20 PAGES OF THE BIGGEST STORIES FROM PLANET TECH →

HOT FOUR #1

BOAST-IT NOTES

Samsung Galaxy Note 10 & Note 10+

Samsung isn't exactly known for springing surprises. So while much of what you get with its new Note 10 and 10+ could have been guessed before they were unveiled, that doesn't mean there's not plenty here to get excited about.

With its massive 6.8in AMOLED Infinity-O screen, 12GB of RAM, 4300mAh battery and quad-camera array, the Note 10+ (E1099) is the pick of the pair, but both come with slimmer bezels and all the internal gubbins needed to work with 5G. Then there's the classic S Pen, which now features gesture controls that let you channel your inner sorcerer and control apps with a flick of the wrist.

The extra camera on the 10+ is for depth-sensing, while the others offer telephoto (12MP), wide-angle (16MP) and standard (12MP) shooting skills. One notable addition is 'live focus' video for bokeh effects. CPU and GPU performance are both well up on the Note 9, but perhaps most important of all is that the Note 10 is smaller than its predecessor, so giant bear-hands are no longer obligatory.

As hot as... the envy of all those who don't look like wizards when using their phones
from E899 / samsung.com

Notes and queries
Samsung has binned the Bixby button that has appeared on most of its recent devices (now you just hold the power button), and the headphone port is also a goner.

S 9



THEY'RE MADE FROM BRUSHED ALUMINIUM TO DAMPEN DISTORTION

GRADO GS100DE WHITE EDITION

£795 / grado.co.uk

Are oversized Polo mints a headphone trend these days?

Not that we're aware of, but these Grado cans look so fresh we'd have no hesitation wearing them. Every pair from the Brooklyn brand's Prestige Series is hand-built and this edition – also going by the moniker of The White Headphone – is available in "very limited quantities". They're made in the main from brushed aluminium,

which according to Grado helps to dampen distortion – every audiophile's kryptonite – while an eight-conductor cable exerts control in the upper and lower ranges of the frequency spectrum. Yes, all that from a cable.

I take it there's some sort of link to the Beatles?

Boom Shankar! Yes, there is. As you might have guessed from the

nickname, they're inspired by *The White Album*, which big boss man John Grado describes as a family favourite. You don't need to be a Fabs fanatic, though: the minty look will feel equally appropriate for anyone recreating the video to *Stay Another Day* by East 17, or cosplaying as Gandalf. The accenting on the earcups also pops strongly against that black leather headband.

Is the 'white' thing the reason they're so expensive?

In a way, but anything under a grand for studio-quality open-back headphones is about the right ballpark these days... and there are some nice added extras in the box, including a quarter-inch gold adaptor and a Grado story sheet giving owners a bit of background on the history and heritage at play.

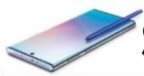
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(IMAGE 4 OF 4)

CIRCULATION:

40K



T3

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4 SUPER-SLIM TOUCHSCREEN LAPTOPS



CIRCULATION:

38.1K



Horizon

The best new tech heading your way

Edited by Claire Davies

1 SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 10/10+

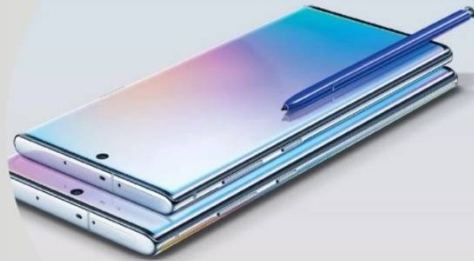
● From £899/£999, [samsung.com](https://www.samsung.com)

It's eight years since Samsung launched the first Note, and boy, has it grown. While that original 'phablet' (remember them?) sported a 5.3-inch screen, the Note 10 and Note 10+ measure 6.3 inches and 6.8 inches respectively. We've tried the new models, and while the larger one strained our thumbs, the regular Note 10 felt just right in the palm. Samsung has, at least, whittled away the bezels around the AMOLED display, resulting in a 93.2% screen-to-body ratio that's a little easier to reach into.

Photos from the front-facing 10MP camera look great, and the triple-lens system is similar to the S10, combining a 12MP wide-angle camera with variable aperture technology, a 16MP ultra-wide and a 12MP telephoto with 2x optical zoom. Pictures were packed with detail, – albeit not quite as sharp as you'll get from a Google Pixel 3.

There's no shortage of processing grunt, with 8GB of RAM and 256GB of built-in storage, while Samsung says the 3,500mAh battery will keep you going throughout the day and into the evening, largely thanks to the efficiencies of the new Exynos 9825 chipset. There's a 5G version of both models, too.

The Note 10+ benefits from a DepthVision camera system for improved AR and other 3D effects; expandable storage; a bigger battery with faster charging; and more RAM – but it really felt like a beast. The Note 10 struck the perfect balance between comfort and clout.



Need to jot something down quickly? A simple tap on the screen with the S Pen will turn it into a notepad, without the need to open an app. Handwritten notes can also be turned into typed text to be shared with friends. We loved it.



T3 SAYS...



“Beautiful screens and loads of power make these phones to be reckoned with”

Matt Bolton, Editor

TECH-O-METER



CIRCULATION:

38.1K



4 FOSSIL GEN 5
● £279, fossil.co.uk

Much like Victorian children, watches used to be seen and not heard. Times are changing, though, and Fossil's latest wearable is anything but quiet. The Gen 5 Wear OS features a built-in speaker, meaning you can take tethered calls, and get answers from Google Assistant. Other highlights include a 1.3-inch colour touchscreen, the latest Snapdragon Wear 3100 chipset, GPS, waterproofing for swimming exercise tracking, and a built-in app called Cardiogram. The latter can supposedly pick up early signs of diabetes, hypertension, sleep apnea and other illnesses, but we'll have to defer to the experts on its effectiveness. Oh, the Fossil Gen 5 also tells the time - if anyone still cares. It comes in a range of strap colours and textures, including dark brown leather.

T3 SAYS: This smartwatch looks like a stylish option for both Android and iPhone users.



IMAGE SOURCE: FOSSIL GROUP

5 GRADO LABS THE WHITE HEADPHONE
● £795, gradolabs.com

Announcing his company's new limited-edition cans, John Grado revealed that they were "inspired by one of our family's favourite records". Assuming he meant *The White Album* - The Beatles' wildly inventive but ultimately hit-and-miss 1968 double LP - we should perhaps be grateful that Grado Labs hasn't gone overboard in its homage. The White Headphone is a fine tribute to an iconic record, with a painted maple-wood housing echoing the album's stark sleeve with aplomb. The rest is based on Grado Labs' range-topping SR325e Prestige Series cans, acclaimed for their distortion-damping brushed aluminium build, and unique eight-conductor cable design that exerts superb control at both ends of the frequency spectrum.

T3 SAYS: These look a bit of all-white.



IMAGE SOURCE: GRADO LABS



CIRCULATION:

38.1K

Home > Headphones > Best Bluetooth headphones 2019: Superb wireless in-ear, on-ear and over-ear headphones to buy in the UK

Best Bluetooth headphones 2019: Superb wireless in-ear, on-ear and over-ear headphones to buy in the UK

[BEST BUYS](#) Christopher Minasians @chrisminasians 30 Aug 2019



Check out our guide to the ultimate wireless headphones of 2019 – from cheap in-ears to premium full-sized over-ear headphones

Apple's decision to ditch the headphone socket on the iPhone 7 really caused a stir at the time, but it set the trend: other manufacturers are now eagerly relegating the 3.5mm headphone jack to history. Whatever type of smartphone you own now, you can save yourself a lot of hassle by opting for a set of Bluetooth wireless headphones.

As well as providing the convenience of a tangle-free wireless connection, Bluetooth headphones are compatible with most types of smartphones and mobile devices, so you never have to worry if they'll work with the latest models.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **5.34M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **15.1K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **80**



77

Grado GW100 Wireless: The best wireless open-back headphones

Price when reviewed: £169 | [Buy now from Amazon](#)



Expert Reviews

SEP 12 2016

(IMAGE 2 OF 3)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **5.34M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **15.1K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **80**



77

On-ear open-back headphones might seem silly for commutes but Grado's GW100 Wireless are an excellent choice for the home or an office environment. The cans connect over Bluetooth and support the higher-quality aptX codec, making them a firm choice for audiophiles. As for the design, they don't apply too much pressure on the head and sit comfortably on-the-ears thanks to their foamy pads.

Sonically, these are among the best-sounding wireless headphones around, as thanks to their open-back design, they have a wide, open soundstage that delivers excellent instrument separation. Throughout the frequency range, the GW100 Wireless also manage to reproduce a hearty sound, namely in the mid-bass tones, where these excel. If you're a fan of rock music, you'll love these wireless Grado headphones.

Key specs – **Headphone type:** On-ear; **Built-in microphone and music control buttons:** Yes; **Plug type:** 3.5mm jack (optional); **Weight:** 313g; **Cable length:** 1.2m



Grado GW100 Wireless Bluetooth Headphones

£169.00

Buy now
amazon.co.uk

Expert Reviews

SEP 12 2016

(IMAGE 3 OF 3)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **5.34M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **15.1K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **80**



77

Home > Headphones > Best headphones 2019 UK: The best wired headphones and earphones you can buy

Best headphones 2019 UK: The best wired headphones and earphones you can buy

HEADPHONES Christopher Minasians @chrisminasians 30 Aug 2019



We've put together a list of the best in-ear, on-ear and over-ear headphones we've ever reviewed

There's no shortage of music nowadays. Decades after the Sony WalkMan first made it possible to carry music on the go, services such as [Spotify](#), [Tidal](#) and [Apple Music](#) let you listen to tracks wherever you are.

However, to make the most of your new musical freedom, you'll need to get some decent headphones or earphones. Unlike those terrible earbuds that probably came with your phone, the best headphones will bring your music to life, giving you great bass, crystal-clear highs and everything in between.

There are plenty of great headphones on the market in a wide variety of in-ear, on-ear and over-ear designs, so to make things easier, we've collected the best headphones you can buy in every category and even written a buying guide.

READ NEXT: If you're looking for the [best Bluetooth headphones](#), check

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(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **12.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **80**



26



2

JUN 5 2015

(IMAGE 2 OF 2)



Grado SR125e: The best open-back headphones under £200

Price when reviewed: £150 - [Buy now from Amazon](#)



The SR125e are designed to be used at home, as these open-back headphones have a thick 2m-long cable. Despite sitting on-the-ears, the soft foamy pads provide excellent comfort and won't heat your ears after a few hours of use. The real star of the show, however, is the headphones' audio quality: they excel in every genre as they provide a rich bodied sound signature and an open soundstage that works wonders on live recordings. In comparison to more expensive cans, the SR125e's upper mids are a touch recessed and the sub-bass lacks a fluid extension.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **5.34M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **12.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **80**



26



2

TRENDING New issue IFA 2019 Best headphones Naim Mu-so 2 B&W Formation Wedge

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Grado GW100 review

The kings of open-back headphones go wireless *Tested at £169 / \$249*

★★★★★ By What Hi-Fi? Posted 36 minutes ago [Review](#)



(Image: © Future)

OUR VERDICT

Grado's first pair of wireless headphones is truly excellent, but won't be for everyone

+ FOR

- Clean, transparent, lively sound
- Solid, compact build
- Foolproof operation

- AGAINST

- A touch bright-sounding
- No in-line remote
- Poor battery life

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AUG 27 2019

(IMAGE 1 OF 6)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

6.43M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

19.9K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

78

Grado GW100 deals



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US\$249

VIEW

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POWERED BY **WHAT HI-FI?**

In some ways, the Grado GW100 headphones are as paradoxical as tech can get. They're wireless, meaning their purpose is granting untethered portability so you can listen to music out and about free from wires. But their open-back design leaks sound both in and out, making them not only less than ideal in out-and-about environments, but also pretty unsociable in crowds.

But Grado was always going to go down this seemingly contradictory route - the Brooklyn-based company doesn't have a single closed-back pair in its multi-Award-winning catalogue. This is the only shape its first pair of Bluetooth headphones was ever going to take.

- **Best wireless headphones 2019**

Yet, despite an introduction laden with scepticism, this review of the GW100s is accompanied by a five-star *What Hi-Fi?* badge. Because while the open-back, wireless GW100s won't be for everyone or every situation, they will be perfect for those who want a pair for home environments, for pottering around the garden or listening to a Bluetooth turntable, when isolation from their surroundings isn't important.

And within that niche capacity, they sound simply excellent - unlike any other wireless headphones we've heard - for their modest £169 price tag.

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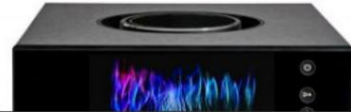


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AUG 27 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 6)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

6.43M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

19.9K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

78

What Hi Fi?

AUG 27 2019

(IMAGE 3 OF 6)

(Image credit: Future)

Before we gush about the Grado's wireless performance, you should be aware of the potential drawbacks. The first is battery life, which is a claimed 15 hours based on 50 per cent volume and the type of music you're playing.

Given that over 30-hour endurance from wireless headphones (even budget models) is normal these days, that's not something to shout about, although it's arguably less disastrous in the context of home use.

From an aesthetic point of view, the GW100s toe the Grado line as closely as every pair has done since the first nearly 30 years ago.

They're most comparable to the Prestige Series with their compact form, all-black guise and circular on-cup details. Though not as universally stylish as a pair of **Beats** or **Bose**, they're neat for their price and build and operation (power and volume buttons and instant Bluetooth pairing) are more than satisfactory.

They don't collapse or fold in any way, being designed to be simply placed in the small plate-sized shell storage case they're supplied with.

- [Best headphone amplifiers 2019](#)

Sound



(Image credit: Future)

Despite their similarities with previous Grado models, the GW100s' speaker housings and internals have been redesigned to serve their unique wireless nature. They may be open-backed, but Grado has worked to diminish sound leakage by up to 60 per cent. They are notably less leaky than the SR80e (£89)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

6.43M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

19.9K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

78

leakage by up to 60 per cent. They are notably less leaky than the SR06 (£67) and SR325e (£269), but played at a reasonable volume they can still be heard a few metres away.

On the other side of the coin, what you're subjected to isn't always just your music – especially as the playful techno of Dusk's *Lea Valley* fades into the quiet, ambient musings of Apparat's *Goodbye* in our playlist. Wandering the streets, we find road traffic and planes flying overhead are audible at a normal listening level.

Still, it's such openness that gifts the GW100s, as it does their wired siblings, a wonderfully broad sonic canvas on which to deliver your music. Compared with closed-back pairs, they really do offer a sense of comforting airiness, and we welcome the spaciousness that it affords within the soundstage. It's like looking at the same painting on an A5 and A1 canvas – the same details may feature on both, but they're easier to digest on the larger surface.

We head straight for Purple Mountains' *Darkness And Cold* and the wheezing harmonica has the space to freely riff away from the accompanying jangly guitars – all without sacrificing rhythmic synergy.

The downcast lyrics contrasting with upbeat lamentation and melody come through with a clarity rarely heard through Bluetooth cans, and the level of insight on offer – in his hidden dejection, and in the subtler acoustic strums – is more generous than we'd expect from a pair at this price.

We up the tempo to Spoon's *The Underdog*, and the GW100s ape their wired brothers once again, exhibiting a liveliness and agility that almost dares you to stay still during the exuberance of theatrical horns and addictive melody. Bass is fast and clean, midrange is dynamic – life is good.

GRADO GW100 TECH SPECS



(Image credit: Future)

Design Open-back

Bluetooth 4.2 with aptX

Battery life 15 hours

Audio cable 3.5mm

Connection microUSB

What Hi Fi?

AUG 27 2019

(IMAGE 4 OF 6)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

6.43M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

19.9K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

78





(Image credit: Future)

They're pretty much opposite in character to the five-star (and now-similarly-priced) B&W P5 Wireless, which favour a rich, punchy and bass-laden presentation that's naturally more direct and compact.

While some may prefer their meatier nature and comparably thicker bass, there's no denying the Grados possess the greater expression, clarity and ultimately more sophisticated balance. They lean slightly on the brighter side of the fence – but they're easy to live with once their out-of-the-box harshness has died down after a couple of days' running in.

Grado's claim that "nothing is lost except the wires" here is mostly true, too. Through the supplied cable, which is sadly bereft of an in-line remote, the delivery is much the same, just blessed with a small extra dose of refinement and subtlety that serves as a reminder that wired is, ultimately, still the way to go if sound quality is paramount.

- [10 of the best tracks to test your headphones](#)

Verdict

The Grado GW100s don't boast the features you might expect from Bluetooth headphones today, and their open-back nature means they won't be universally likeable either.

But they do carve themselves an undeniable niche appeal, backed by an excellent performance that's Grado through and through. And if you're drawn to that combination, you won't be disappointed.

SCORES

- Sound 5
- Comfort 5
- Build 5

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Grado GW100 deals ⓘ



US\$249
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What Hi Fi?

AUG 27 2019

(IMAGE 6 OF 6)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

6.43M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

19.9K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

78

253 views | Jul 31, 2019, 07:32am

Grado Pays Tribute To The Beatles With Its Limited Edition “The White Headphone”



Mark Sparrow Contributor

Consumer Tech

Technology journalist specializing in audio and photography



f This article was updated on August 15, 2019, to correct the model number that The White Headphone are based on. Originally the article cited the model as Grado Labs SR325e, information based on details provided by Grado Labs. This has since been amended to GS1000e.

in



The White Headphone by Grado Labs is a limited edition of the company's SR325e headphones to commemorate The White Album by The Beatles. JONATHAN GRADO

Today Grado Labs announced the launch of The White Headphone, a special edition of the Brooklyn-based family headphone manufacturer's top-of-the-range SR325e Prestige Series headphones. The White Headphone will only be available in very

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **100M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **73.8K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **95**



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Prestige Series headphones. The White Headphone will only be available in very limited quantities.

Designed to pay tribute to the release of the Beatles ninth studio album on 22 November 1968, the limited edition headphones are special item for the UK market. The Beatles double album quickly became known as “The White Album” and featured songs written mostly during March and April 1968 when the band were attending a transcendental meditation course in Rishikesh, India.

Hand-built at Grado Labs’ headquarters, located in the heart of Brooklyn, New York, The White Headphone epitomizes the Grado approach to sound. Its brushed aluminum housing is claimed to dampen distortion, while the eight-conductor cable exerts control in the upper and lower ranges of the frequency spectrum to support Grado’s renowned midrange.

The SR325e design on which The White Headphone is based, uses de-stressed drivers that are matched to within .05 dB of each other, for virtually identical left and right channel performance.

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Forbes

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(IMAGE 2 OF 4)

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The Limited Edition pair of headphones has a contrasting white cover and will be available in strictly limited quantities. JONATHAN GRADO

The headphone's 1960s-inspired styling has been given a slightly modern twist courtesy of the clean white accenting on the ear cups, which pop strongly against the black ear pads and contrast-stitched, top-grain leather headband.

Grado Labs President and CEO John Grado said, "Inspired by one of our family's favorite records, The White Headphone by Grado commemorates the power that an album – or even just a single song – may have on a person's life."

The White Headphone will be available from August 2019, priced at £795. And watch out for our forthcoming review of the entry-level Grado SR80e headphones.

Price: \$795 / £795

More info: <https://gradolabs.com/headphones/prestige-series/item/5-sr325e>

Specifications:

- Transducer Type: Dynamic
- Operating Principle: Open Air
- Frequency Response: 18 - 24,000 hz
- SPL 1mW: 99.8 dB
- Nominal Impedance: 32 ohms
- Driver Matched dB: 0.05 dB



Mark Sparrow

I've been a print and online journalist covering technology and industry for around 35 years. In that time I've written for both Mac and PC titles as well as spending ma... [Read More](#)

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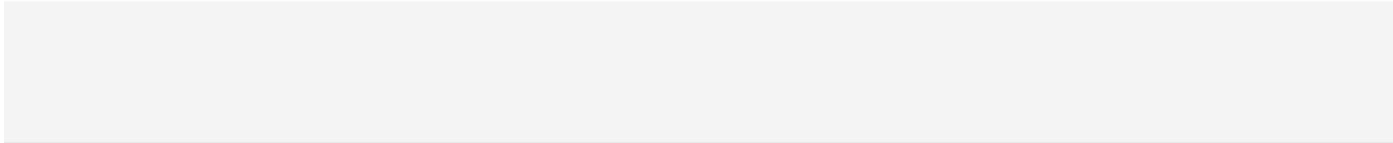
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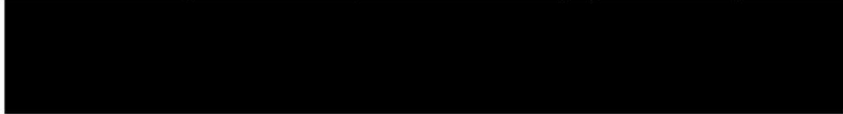


100,845 views | Aug 6, 2019, 03:01pm

Where You Want To Be: The Meaning Of Mentorship

f Slightly more than a decade ago, I welcomed my second child into the world, while waiting to hear if I had been selected into a dermatology residency program. After five grueling years at the country's top medical school—while raising two babies, and continuing to accrue debt—I was more than eager to start my life as an actual doctor.

in Today, I am a board-certified dermatologist and dermatologic surgeon specializing in hair restoration, ethnic skin care, and skin cancer surgery in Kansas City and New



As I reflect on my own career journey today, my advice to Clare—and any young person jump starting their careers in the healthcare field—is this:

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Best audiophile headphones 2019: the ultimate headphones

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Audiophile headphones for discerning music lovers



Best audiophile headphones Buying Guide: Welcome to What Hi-Fi?'s round-up of the best audiophile headphones you can buy in 2019.

There's a vast choice of headphones on the market and many are fitted with a myriad high-tech bells and whistles. But what if you just want the purest listening experience possible?

With the emphasis firmly on sound quality, audiophile headphones are an ode to outstanding sonics – rather than sensors or streaming tech.

We've assembled our favourite audiophile headphones below. And they're not necessarily prohibitively expensive – great value sound quality can exist, even with more affordable headphones.

RECOMMENDED VIDEOS FOR YOU...



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What Hi-Fi?

AUG 9 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 7)

If you want to focus on music, you may be best with a pair of wired over-ears that offer the perfect balance of musicality and precision. If you want to add technology to mix, you could opt for audiophile cans that combine state-of-the-art noise-cancelling tech with state-of-the-art sound.

So what else do you need to consider when buying audiophile headphones? To extract the best performance some models will benefit from a high-quality source or a headphone amplifier. Also, keep in mind that audiophile over-ears tend to be made for home listening; neither a 3m cable nor an open-back design is ideal for the train or office.

Ready to rediscover your favourite track or inject new life into a carefully-curated playlist? Our pick of the top audiophile headphones will level-up your love of music...

How we choose the best audiophile headphones

Here at *What Hi-Fi?* we review hundreds of products every year, from TVs to speakers, headphones to streamers.

We have state-of-the-art testing facilities in London and Bath, where our team of expert reviewers do all our testing. This gives us complete control over how the products, ensuring consistency.

All products are tested in comparison with rival products in the same price category, and all review verdicts are agreed upon by the team as a whole rather than an individual reviewer, again helping to ensure consistency and avoid any personal preference.

The *What Hi-Fi?* team has more than 100 years experience of reviewing, testing and writing about consumer electronics.

From all of our reviews, we choose the products to feature in our Best Buys. That's why if you take the plunge and buy one of the products recommended below, or on any other Best Buy page, you can be assured you're getting a *What Hi-Fi?* approved product.



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(Image credit: Grado)

What Hi-Fi?

AUG 9 2019

(IMAGE 3 OF 7)

1. Grado SR325e

Retro looks, magnificent sound.

SPECIFICATIONS

Style: Open-backed | **Cable length:** 1.7m | **Wireless:** No | **Noise-cancelling:** No | **In-line remote and mic:** No | **Connector:** 3.5mm | **Weight:** 358g

REASONS TO BUY

- Lovely tonal balance
- Transparent across frequencies
- Expressive dynamics

REASONS TO AVOID

- Noise leakage

TODAY'S BEST DEALS

\$295 [VIEW AT AMAZON](#)

\$407.11 [View at Walmart Marketplace](#)

\$407.11 [View at Walmart](#)

[See all prices \(4 found\)](#)

[122 Amazon customer reviews](#) ★★★★★

Put simply, these Grado over-ear headphones are a masterpiece. Even if their retro shell doesn't appeal, their gloriously-musical output almost certainly will. The open-backed design creates a clear, light sound with well-organised layers that deliver an energetic, rhythmical sound. And while those 360-degree rotating ear-cups might look a little old fashioned, they're a delight to wear. They're not cheap but these outstanding cans are worth every penny. There's really only one downside: the open back cups do leak sound, so they're not ideal for use in the office.

Read the full review: [Grado SR325e](#)



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(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

19.9K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

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4



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(Image credit: Sennheiser)

2. Sennheiser HD 820

Premium over-ear headphones that break the mould.

SPECIFICATIONS

Style: Closed-backed | **Cable length:** 3m | **Wireless:** No | **Noise-cancelling:** No | **In-line remote and mic:** No | **Connector:** 6.3mm | **Weight:** 360g

REASONS TO BUY

- Full-bodied, detailed sound
- Powerful, agile bass
- Solid build

REASONS TO AVOID

- Pricey
- Design limits absolute performance

TODAY'S BEST DEALS

\$2,399.95 [VIEW AT AMAZON](#)

\$2,399.95 [View at BHPPhoto](#)

\$3,105.80 [View at Walmart Marketplace](#)

[See all prices \(11 found\)](#)

[4 Amazon customer reviews](#) ★★★★★

Closed back headphones can suffer with distortion issues, but that's not the case with the brilliant Sennheiser HD 820 headphones. Sennheiser has cunningly fixed that problem by using a combination of Gorilla Glass and sound-absorbing chambers to prevent sound waves bouncing back into the drivers. The result? A stunning level of agility and precision, impressive authority in the low frequencies and expertly-controlled bass. Of course, these over-ears are a serious investment. But if you're serious about music they'll transform your home listening experience.

Read the full review: [Sennheiser HD 820](#)



(Image credit: Grado)

What Hi-Fi?

AUG 9 2019

(IMAGE 4 OF 7)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **6.43M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **19.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **78**



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3. Grado SR80e

Excellent affordable audiophile headphones.

SPECIFICATIONS

Style: Open-backed | **Cable length:** Standard | **Wireless:** No | **Noise-cancelling:** No | **In-line remote and mic:** No | **Connector:** 3.5mm | **Weight:** 220g

REASONS TO BUY

- Excellent treble and midrange
- Lively sound
- Tight bass

REASONS TO AVOID

- Not the most relaxed sound

TODAY'S BEST DEALS

\$99 [VIEW AT AMAZON](#)

\$127.68 [View at Newegg Business](#)

\$139.69 [View at Walmart Marketplace](#)

[See all prices \(5 found\)](#)

[756 Amazon customer reviews](#) ★★★★★

If you're looking for affordable audiophile headphones, you're in luck. There's no fancy electronics here, since Grado is a company that's all about the music. Oozing with detail and clarity, they offer a dynamic sound that's hard to beat at this price point. Natural without sounding raw, they elevate almost any genre of music, from electro to easy listening. One thing to note: that open-backed design is here again, which means they aren't best-suited to commutes and the foam ear cups aren't the plushiest. Still, while the SR80es look a little retro, they deliver cutting-edge performance.

Read the full review: [Grado SR80e](#)



(Image credit: Sony)

4. Sony WH-1000XM3

Audiophile noise-cancelling headphones made for music lovers

What Hi-Fi?

AUG 9 2019

(IMAGE 5 OF 7)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

6.43M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

19.9K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

78



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Audiophile noise-cancelling headphones made for music lovers.

SPECIFICATIONS

Style: Closed-backed | **Cable length:** 1.2m | **Wireless:** Yes | **Noise-cancelling:** Yes | **In-line remote and mic:** Yes | **Connector:** 3.5mm, USB-C | **Weight:** 254g

REASONS TO BUY

- Natural, all-round sound quality
- The best noise-cancelling out there
- Supremely comfortable

REASONS TO AVOID

- Touch controls feel fiddly at first
- Can expose weaker recordings

TODAY'S BEST DEALS

\$298 [VIEW AT WALMART](#)

\$298 [View at Amazon](#)

\$299.99 [View at Best Buy](#)

[See all prices \(117 found\)](#)

[750 Amazon customer reviews](#) ★★★★★

Want audiophile sound quality and noise-cancelling? Look no further. Their open, spacious delivery provides plenty of room for vocals and instruments to soar. They're rich in detail as well as tech, though, with all manner of bells and whistles including access to your chosen voice assistant and a fast-charging battery (a ten-minute charges provides five hours' use). Worried the noise-cancelling technology might interfere with the authenticity of your favourite analogue recording? You can switch it off, or tweak the level of noise-cancelling via the app. A fantastic, wire-free audiophile experience.

Read the full review: [Sony WH-1000XM3](#)



(Image credit: AKG)

5. AKG N40

Comfortable headphones for serious music fans.

SPECIFICATIONS

TODAY'S BEST DEALS

What Hi-Fi?

AUG 9 2019

(IMAGE 6 OF 7)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

6.43M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

19.9K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

78



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SPECIFICATIONS

Style: In-ear | **Cable length:** 1.2m | **Wireless:** No | **Noise-cancelling:** No
| **In-line remote and mic:** Yes | **Connector:** 3.5mm | **Weight:** 22g

REASONS TO BUY

- Excellent build
- Comfortable as in-ears get
- Capable of stunning sound

REASONS TO AVOID

- Need pairing with a proper source
- Swappable filters seem unnecessary

TODAY'S BEST DEALS

\$399.95 [VIEW AT HARMAN](#)

\$412 [View at Amazon](#)

[See all prices \(2 found\)](#)

[1 Amazon customer review](#) ★★★★★

What Hi-Fi?

AUG 9 2019

(IMAGE 7 OF 7)

The AKG N40s are pitched squarely at audiophiles. To get the best out of them you'll need a suitable source such as a premium portable music player or a smartphone and accompanying portable DAC/headphone amplifier. Without the right set up, it's likely you won't achieve the best sound quality. Make the effort, though, and you'll be rewarded with an immersive soundstage blessed with impressive range, sensational balance and punchy low frequencies. They may be a little demanding, but if you prefer earbuds over headphones the N40s are perfect for the most discerning listeners.

Read the full review: [AKG N40](#)



(Image credit: Shure)

6. Shure SRH1540

Premium design meets impressive musicality

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **6.43M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **19.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **78**



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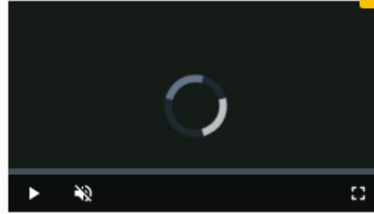
114 views | Aug 7, 2019, 03:20am

BETA

If Money's Tight And You Don't Want To Compromise On Sound, Grado's SR80e Are An Audiophile's Dream



Mark Sparrow Contributor
 Consumer Tech
 Technology journalist specializing in audio and photography



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The Grado SR80e are Grado's entry-level open-back headphones and they sound superb. JONATHAN GRADO

When I occasionally drop by an audiophile group chat on Facebook, the subject invariably turns to the choice of headphones. One name consistently crops up when recommendations are being sought. That name is Grado; a company that makes headphones and turntable cartridges at prices ranging from under a hundred dollars up to limited edition reference headphones costing thousands.

Forbes

AUG 7 2019

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **100M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **73.8K**

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Metro

AUG 2 2019

(IMAGE 1 OF 9)



The Lust List: New tech we want, inspired by Stranger Things

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SR325 e

GRADO LABS

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(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **1.44K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **73**



by Lucy Hedges

Published August 1, 2019



Grado SR325e



Ask any Grado fan about the company's line of retro-inspired open-back 'phones and they'll tell you how exceptional and detailed the audio oozing from these on-ears really is. That makes this particular pair perfect if you're serious about sound. £269, sevenoakssoundandvision.co.uk

Polaroid Impossible Instant Camera Project I-1



This instant analogue snapper comes fully equipped for the 21st century, complete with Bluetooth and app compatibility, alongside the option to snap photos using sound triggers, take double exposures, full manual control, a self-timer, remote control and more. £89.99, uk.polaroidoriginals.com

Casio F-91W



Metro

AUG 2 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **32.8M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **1.44K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **73**



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(IMAGE 3 OF 9)

It's one of the most recognisable and venerable timepieces on the planet, squeezing in a stopwatch, audible notifications, water resistance, alarm functionality, a calendar and the world's worst backlight. The best part? It costs less than a round of drinks. £8.19, [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

Victrola Boombox



Resurrect the 1980s with this old-school boombox, which bears all the hallmarks of a 1980s relic, complete with cassette deck and aux in, but chucks in Bluetooth and a USB slot to bring it bang up to date. £106 (available from Aug 8), [urbanoutfitters.com](https://www.urbanoutfitters.com)

Motorola XT420



(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:	32.8M
(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:	1.44K
DOMAIN AUTHORITY:	73

Before mobile phones were permanently attached to our hands, there were walkie-talkies, and since getting lots of screen time in the Stranger Things show, there's been a resurgence in the desire for pared-down analogue with instant communication. Over. £184.99, onedirect.co.uk

Sphero R2-D2



You might not have telekinesis like Eleven but armed with your smartphone you can get one of science fiction's most recognisable robots to roll around your abode, beeping and blooping cheerfully. Better warn the cat. £49.99, currys.co.uk

Nintendo NES Classic Edition



The original NES crowned Nintendo the undisputed champion of the console

Metro

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(IMAGE 4 OF 9)

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The original NES crowned Nintendo the undisputed champion of the console industry. This 21st-century reboot is almost identical to the classic console, only it's been hit with a shrink ray and delivers better visuals to your TV. £59.99, [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

Qwerkywriter S Typewriter



The round clickety-click keycaps and mechanical elements of this typewriter-inspired keyboard are distinctly retro but, with wireless tech, simultaneous pairing with up to three devices and backlit keys, the Lofree is far from archaic. £215, [qwerkywriter.com](https://www.qwerkywriter.com)

It's OK Bluetooth Cassette Player



With the cassette's triumphant comeback and the iconic Walkman turning 40, revisit those glory days with a device that fuses retro with modern tech by playing tunes through wireless 'phones or a Bluetooth speaker. Better

Metro

AUG 2 2019

(IMAGE 5 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **32.8M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **1.44K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **73**

by playing tunes through wireless 'phones or a Bluetooth speaker. Better dust off those mixtapes. £60.28, ninmlab.com

Pac-Man Quarter Size Arcade Cabinet



If you spent a large portion of your youth helping a yellow dot-gobbling disc navigate its way through a maze, this Bandai Namco-licensed replica of the original 1980s Pac-Man arcade cabinet packs plenty of old-school appeal. £149.99, geekstore.com



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Messy metadata and awkward



algorithms mean classical music fans are short-changed on streaming platforms



by Lucy Hedges

Published August 1, 2019



SEARCH for Beethoven's 5th on Spotify and it'll pull up an overwhelming and seemingly arbitrary list of recordings based purely on keywords found in the track title. Given the platform contains around 500 orchestral recordings of the piece, it means finding what you want is like wading through treacle — and it also means that while the biggest pop artists and record labels are enjoying the successes of streaming, classical music isn't reaping the same rewards.

The issue, says Thomas Steffens, CEO of classical streaming platform Primephonic, is that the algorithms of the likes of Spotify and Apple Music are not sophisticated enough to handle the complex metadata associated with classical music, especially for pieces containing several movements.

'The problem is that Spotify and other music-streaming services are mostly designed for pop music, which from a data perspective is very simple,' says Steffens. 'There's the artist, the name of the album, the name of the song and that's it.'

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(IMAGE 7 OF 9)

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(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **1.44K**

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and that's it.'



Maestro: Thomas Steffens

But Mozart's Piano Concerto No.4, for example, has an opus number, a nickname and movements — too much for streaming services to handle.

'The whole data structure is much more complex and the idea that there are multiple artists for one song is not something Spotify is designed for,' says Steffens. 'If classical music wants to survive in the digital era it must fix this problem, otherwise it will lose its relevance and no longer be available.'

Primephonic has amassed more than 1.5 million tracks in its catalogue since launching in the UK last year and is on a mission to 'do for classical music what Spotify did for the music industry'.

Since conducting a survey with music research company Music Watch, four areas of concern were identified among frustrated and tech-savvy classical music fans — search, information, audio quality and recommendations.

'Classical music fans can't find what they're looking for, they don't get recommendations that inspire them and they don't get information on what they're listening to,' says Steffens.

Primephonic's solution is to offer a platform that caters to different and demanding tastes, from the know-it-alls to the people who want to discover more.

Its bespoke 'smart search' tool has been designed to make it easy to find works based on name, composer, opus number, nickname, period, choir and more. It also uses experts to input data to ensure accurate results and

Metro

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(IMAGE 8 OF 9)

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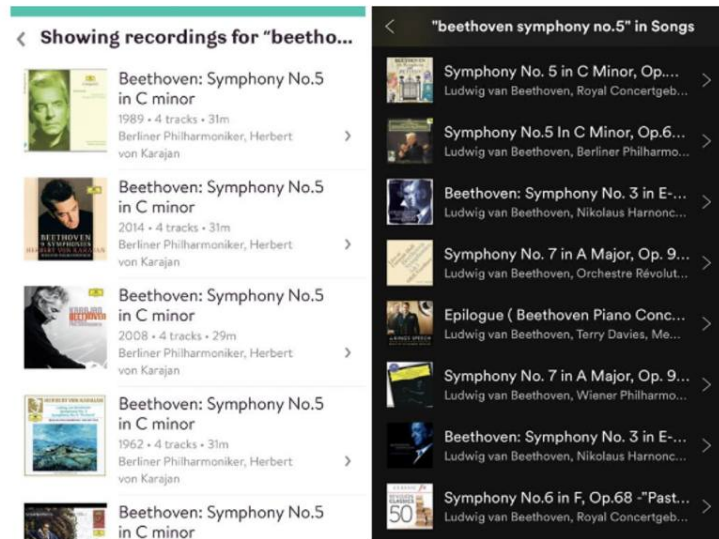
(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

1.44K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

73

and more. It also uses experts to input data to ensure accurate results and correct artist information.



Results: Primephonic versus Spotify showing a search for Beethoven's 5th

With uninspiring playlist recommendations on Spotify such as 'chilled' or 'relaxing', it's easy for serious classical music fans to get offended, says Steffens. It makes sense that Primephonic has an edge when you consider the unusually high manpower administrating its classical listings — it has a team of 28 enthusiasts, all from various musical backgrounds, from orchestral musicians to backing singers.

Most classical music has been around for two or three hundred years, so it's difficult for streaming platforms to recommend 'new' music. For Primephonic, it's about helping users consider music they don't yet know about based on recommendations from the team, whereas Spotify's algorithms are designed to introduce you to new music purely based on your listening history.

'That is why we do the curation here,' says Steffens. 'We know a lot about classical music and make out-of-the box recommendations. We don't use algorithms, we use old-school people to make recommendations.'

As for sound quality, the platform has a £15-a-month Platinum membership giving lossless 24-bit FLAC playback, or a cheaper 320kbps MP3-only Premium package, at £8 a month.

With classical music accounting for five per cent of all music listening worldwide (album sales, concerts and streams etc), according to Primephonic's research, but only one per cent of the listening on Spotify, the platform has its work cut out. But classical music streaming is on the up,

Metro

AUG 2 2019

(IMAGE 9 OF 9)

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Casio F-91W
It's one of the most recognisable and venerable timepieces on the planet, squeezing in a stopwatch, audible notifications, water resistance, alarm functionality, a calendar and the world's worst backlight. The best part? It costs less than a round of drinks.
£8.19, amazon.co.uk



Motorola XT420
Before mobile phones were permanently attached to our hands, there were walkie-talkies, and since getting lots of screen time in the Stranger Things show, there's been a resurgence in the desire for pared-down analogue with instant communication. Over.
£184.99, onedirect.co.uk



Grado SR325e
Ask any Grado fan about the company's line of retro-inspired open-back 'phones and they'll tell you how exceptional and detailed the audio oozing from these on-ears really is. That makes this particular pair perfect if you're serious about sound.
£269, sevenoaks soundandvision.co.uk

Victrola Boombox
Resurrect the 1980s with this old-school boombox, which bears all the hallmarks of a 1980s relic, complete with cassette deck and aux in, but chucks in Bluetooth and a USB slot to bring it bang up to date.
£106 (available from Aug 8), urbanoutfitters.com



Polaroid Impossible Instant Camera Project I-1
This instant analogue snapper comes fully equipped for the 21st century, complete with Bluetooth and app compatibility, alongside the option to snap photos using sound triggers, take double exposures, full manual control, a self-timer, remote control and more.
£89.99, uk.polaroidoriginals.com

INSPIRED BY **STAR WARS**
The LUST List
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Pac-Man Quarter Size Arcade Cabinet
If you spent a large portion of your youth helping a yellow dot-gobbling disc navigate its way through a maze, this Bandai Namco-licensed replica of the original 1980s Pac-Man arcade cabinet packs plenty of old-school appeal.
£149.99, geekstore.com

Qwerkywriter S Typewriter
The round clickety-click keycaps and mechanical elements of this typewriter-inspired keyboard are distinctly retro but, with wireless tech, simultaneous pairing with up to three devices and backlit keys, the Lofree is far from archaic.
£215, qwerkywriter.com



Nintendo NES Classic Edition
The original NES crowned Nintendo the undisputed champion of the console industry. This 21st-century reboot is almost identical to the classic console, only it's been hit with a shrink ray and delivers better visuals to your TV.
£59.99, amazon.co.uk



It's OK Bluetooth Cassette Player
With the cassette's triumphant comeback and the iconic Walkman turning 40, revisit those glory days with a device that fuses retro with modern tech by playing tunes through wireless 'phones or a Bluetooth speaker. Better dust off those mixtapes.
£60.28, ninmlab.com



CIRCULATION:

1.45M



Grado launches limited edition on-ears in 'The White Headphone'

Kob Monney, July 31, 2019 9:33 pm BST



Grado Labs has announced a new pair of headphones in the special edition 'The White Headphone', which will be available from August onwards in limited quantities.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **11.4M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **17.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **89**

It's rare you get a pair of headphones that don't come in matte black or metallic grey finishes. Grado Labs have noticed this and bucked that trend by launching an eye-catching pair of cans in 'The White Headphone'.

They're special versions of the existing SR325e Prestige Series headphones. Hand-crafted at the company's headquarters in the Brooklyn, New York, The White Headphone are a showcase for Grado's attention to detail and approach to sound.

They employ a brushed aluminium housing to dampen distortion and they also makes use of an 8 conductor cable, which exerts control in the upper and lower ranges of the frequency spectrum to provide support for the midrange performance.

Related: [Best headphones](#)



The 'White' aspect of the headphones becomes apparent in the clean white accent that features on the earcups, which help make for a very striking pair of headphones that should get the wearer noticed during a the trip to the supermarket. They're also likely a reference to, and inspired by, The Beatles *White Album*, released towards the end of the '60s which also featured a unique design for its album sleeve.

Since they're the special versions of the SR325e, they'll likely furnish the listener with a smooth, detailed and open-backed sound. And in time-honoured Grado tradition, they'll mix musical audio quality with a retro vibe. thanks to its

Trusted Reviews

JUL 31 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 3)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **11.4M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **17.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **89**

mix musical audio quality with a retro vibe, thanks to its contrast-stitched top-grain leather headband.

Related: [Best headphone deals](#)

Grado Labs President and CEO John Grado said: "Inspired by one of our family's favourite records, The White Headphone by Grado commemorates the power that an album – or even just a single song – may have on a person's life."

The White Headphone go on sale in August, for £795.

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DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **89**

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HOT STUFF

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Stuff

JUL 31 2019

(IMAGE 1 OF 2)



(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **2.3M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **6.82K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **79**

NEWS

Grado Labs is launching a pair of limited edition cans inspired by the swinging '60s

Love, peace, and top-notch audio

Audio



by **Chris Kerr**

[Follow @kerrblimey](#)

4 HOURS AGO



Grado Labs newest over-ears are quite unlike anything we've seen before. Simply dubbed 'The White Headphone,' the silky smooth cans are a limited edition version of Grado's flagship SR325e Prestige Series that've been enhanced with a brushed aluminium housing that dampens distortion and slick 1960's styling inspired by the look of one very famous record. Hand-built in the company's New York headquarters, The White Headphone also packs an 8 conductor cable to better control the upper and lower ranges of the frequency spectrum to deliver pitch perfect midranges, and an open air design that should create a more natural soundscape. The White Headphone (£795) will be available in "very limited" quantities when it arrives this August, so it's probably worth keeping an eye on these bad boys.

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Stuff

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(IMAGE 2 OF 2)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **2.3M**

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DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **79**

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Grado releases striking 'The White Headphone' special edition headphones

By [Becky Scarrott](#) 43 minutes ago [News](#)

In the white room, with black headphones



(Image credit: Grado)

When news of a special edition set of Grado headphones is brought to our attention, we stop what we're doing and pay attention – Grado has produced some excellent on-ears over the years; premium cans that have gained top marks from this publication.

The White Headphone, launched today and slated for August availability, is a makeover of Grado's top-of-the-range Prestige Series **SR325e** – a model which won *What Hi-Fi?*'s 2018 Award for best home on-ear headphones £100-£400.

The makeover has rendered them visually quite different to the understated originals. The White Headphone is a sleek, Modernist would-be carried off with

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(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

6.12M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

19K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

78



The makeover has rendered them visually quite different to the understated originals. The White Headphone is a look Mary Quant would've carried off with ease in the swinging 60s. White accenting on the ear cups essentially creates two white discs which pop strongly against the black ear pads. There's also a thicker, contrast-stitched top-grain leather headband.

Hand-built in Grado Labs' Brooklyn headquarters, The White Headphone features brushed aluminium housing and the company's trademark eight conductor cable, which promises to exert control in the upper and lower frequency ranges.

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WHAT HI-FI?



President and CEO of Grado Labs, John Grado, said the new design is "inspired by one of our family's favourite records," adding, "The White Headphone by Grado commemorates the power that an album – or even just a single song – may have on a person's life."

We're not sure if Mr. Grado means The Beatles' *White Album*, or Cream's *The White Room*... or any other track mentioning white, but either way, sonic inspiration always works for us.

The White Headphone will be available in both the UK and US, priced at £795 including VAT. Details on US pricing are yet to be released, but when we know, so shall you.

Grado also says this special edition model will be available in "very limited" quantities, so if you think they're far out, best act quickly.

MORE:

[John Grado: humble beginnings, why headphones, and finally going wireless](#)

[Grado SR80e review](#)

[Grado PS1000e review](#)

5 Best wireless speakers 2019: portable, multi-room, smart speakers

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Grado SR325e deals

★★★★★ 122 Amazon customer reviews



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What Hi-Fi?

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(IMAGE 2 OF 2)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **6.12M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **19K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **78**

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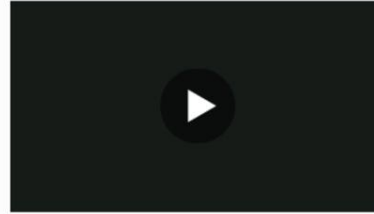
Grado Pays Tribute To The Beatles With Its Limited Edition “The White Headphone”



Mark Sparrow Contributor @

Consumer Tech

Technology journalist specializing in audio and photography



- f
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The White Headphone by Grado Labs is a limited edition of the company's SR325e headphones to commemorate The White Album by The Beatles. JONATHAN GRADO

Today Grado Labs announced the launch of The White Headphone, a special edition of the Brooklyn-based family headphone manufacturer's top-of-the-range SR325e Prestige Series headphones. The White Headphone will only be available in very limited quantities.

Designed to pay tribute to the release of the Beatles ninth studio album on 22 November 1968, the limited edition headphones are special items for the UK

Forbes

JUL 31 2019

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **107M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **78.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **95**

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What Hi-Fi?

JUL 24 2019
(IMAGE 1 OF 3)

CIRCULATION: 26.3K



HEADPHONES CONTINUED

£200 to £500	<p>Sony WI-1000X £206 February 2018 ★★★★★ The best of both worlds thanks to great sound and fine noise-cancelling capabilities. Absolutely worth your time and money. In-line controls Yes Cable length 1m</p>		
	<p>AKG N40 £249 Best in-ears £300+, Awards 2018 ★★★★★ These sound great, but you'll need a decent portable DAC and hi-res tracks to make the most of them, so they're not for the casual user. In-line controls No Cable length 1.2m</p>	AWARD WINNER	
£500 and above	<p>Shure KSE1500 £2549 November 2016 ★★★★★ At this price they won't be for everyone, but they are the finest in-ears we've heard and arguably one of the best headphones money can buy. In-line controls Yes Cable length 1.3m</p>		
On-ears up to £100	<p>Koss Porta Pro £49 August 2018 ★★★★★ Headphones that stretch all the way back to 1984, these deliver decent punch and detail and, most of all, they're a lot of fun to listen to. Type Open Connection 3.5/6.3mm Weight 60g</p>		
	<p>AKG Y50 £75 Best portable on-ears under £100, Awards 2018 ★★★★★ Our Product of the Year cans for 2015 are portable on-ears, and deliver a rhythmic, clear, detailed, dynamic sound. At this price they're amazing. Type Closed Connection 3.5mm Weight 190g</p>	PRODUCT OF THE YEAR	
	<p>Grado SR80e £99 Best home on-ears under £100, Awards 2018 ★★★★★ These Grados aren't the most relaxing listen, but the excellent treble and midrange make for an exceptional performer. Type Open Connection 3.5/6.3mm Weight 210g</p>	AWARD WINNER	
£100 to £200	<p>Grado SR125e £135 December 2014 ★★★★★ These might look suited to the ears of a wartime radio operator, but they sound great. Best used in the home though, as they're very leaky. Type Open Connection 3.5mm/6.5mm Weight 363g</p>		

What Hi-Fi?

JUL 24 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 3)

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Sennheiser Momentum 2.0 £199

Best portable on-ears £100+, Awards 2018 ★★★★★

We love the design, but it's more than just pretty – these Momentums are comfortable on your ears and fold away neatly when not in use.

Type Closed Connection 3.5mm Weight 240g



£100 to £200

Grado SR325e £299

Best home on-ears £100-£400, Awards 2018 ★★★★★

If you don't mind the amount of sound leaking from them, you're free to enjoy the fluid dynamics and wonderfully musical presentation.

Type Open Connection 3.5mm/6.5mm Weight 330g



Beyerdynamic Amiron £478

Best home on-ears £400+, Awards 2018 ★★★★★

Beyerdynamic has produced a pair of headphones that sound as good as they feel. Be careful though; their open-backed nature leaks sound.

Type Open Connection 3.5mm/6.3mm Weight 340g



£200 to £300

Audio Technica ATH-W1000Z £530

March 2017 ★★★★★

The 11th version of the W1000z opts for evolution over revolution and with a spacious sound that packs power and punch, it's a good choice.

Type Closed Connection 6.3mm Weight 320g



B&W P9 Signature £699

December 2016 ★★★★★

They're not cheap but there's no doubt these are talented cans. A retro look, stunning sound and a comfy fit make these worth their price.

Type Closed Connection 6.3mm/Lightning in 2017 Weight 413g



£500 to £1000

Sennheiser HD800S £1399

June 2016 ★★★★★

If the price invites doubts, rest assured the performance is absolutely worth it, provided your source and amplification are up to the job.

Type Open Connection 6.3mm Weight 330g



Sony MDR-Z1R £1650

April 2017 ★★★★★

The finest closed-back headphones we have heard. Feed them with quality electronics and there is no doubt the Z1Rs will shine.

Type Closed Connection 3.5mm/6.3mm Weight 385g



Sennheiser HD820 £1999

October 2018 ★★★★★

Probably the best-sounding closed-back headphones we've heard. They have lots of detail, plenty of punch and a strong bass performance.

Type Closed Connection 4.4mm/6.3mm/XLR4 Weight 360g



£1000 and above

Focal Utopia £3499

June 2017 ★★★★★

With these cans Focal has aimed for the moon and reached it, delivering one of the finest pairs of headphones we've heard.

Type Open Connection 6.3mm Weight 490g



Beyerdynamic Byron BT £59

Best wireless in-ears under £100, Awards 2018 ★★★★★

These affordable Bluetooth in-ears retain much of the sonic charm and detail of their Award-winning wired siblings.

Controls Yes Battery 7.5 hours



What Hi-Fi?

JUL 24 2019

(IMAGE 3 OF 3)

CIRCULATION:

26.3K



The best Amazon Prime Day headphone deals: what to look out for from Beats, Sennheiser, Apple, Sony and the rest

Because there WILL be deals on headphones. Oh yes...

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(Image credit: Brand)

BY STEVE MAY
9 DAYS AGO

Looking for a cheap headphones on [Amazon Prime Day](#)? Whether you're after in-ear buds or over-ear headphones, true wireless, wireless or wired, here's what you should look out for... Why, there's so much choice when it comes to headphones, it's almost a shame we only have two ears.

A new set of headphones isn't just a lifestyle or fashion statement. If you've recently upgraded your smartphone to a model that's dumped traditional 3.5 mm jack for USB-C, it's definitely time to buy

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **7.88M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **22.3K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **80**

[f](#)
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smartphone to a model that's dumped traditional 3.5 mm jack for USB-C, it's definitely time to buy (unless you like those funny little plug adaptors).

The good news is Amazon Prime Day provides a great opportunity to add more cans to your gadget cupboard. With 48 hours of frantic price cutting in the offing, you're certain to nab a bargain or two. Here, we've got a guide to some more audiophile headphones we think will be on sale, but first up, we know a lot of you will be looking for [Beats by Dre headphone deals](#) – we see the sales data every year – or [cheap Bose noise cancelling headphones](#). So here's a couple of easy wins to kick us off...

- [Beats Solo3 Wireless £149 at Very \(was £249, save £100\)](#)
- [Bose QuietComfort 35 II £249 at Peter Tyson \(was £329, save £80\)](#)
- [Shop for Beats by Dr. Dre headphones at Amazon](#)
- [Shop for Bose headphones at Amazon](#)
- [Shop for Anker SoundCore headphones and buds at Amazon](#)

AMAZON PRIME DAY HEADPHONE BUYING TIPS

If you're buying for home use, perhaps to use with a desktop headphone amp or two-channel Hi-Fi system, then your priority should always be audio quality and comfort. For absolute resolution, opt for a wired connection rather than wireless. Then decide if you want open back, for enhanced spatial reality, or a more isolating closed back design.

Wireless is the way to go when hooking up to a mobile device or pairing with a Bluetooth equipped television or laptop but be aware that you will need Bluetooth with low latency if you don't want a time lag between spoken dialogue and the characters' lips.

For the daily commute, or in-flight travel, noise cancelling can be very handy indeed, although the effectiveness of active noise cancelling technology varies dramatically between brands (see our guide to the best, linked above).

The other key specialist area for headphones is gaming. Providing an immersive audio experience, the intensity of your favourite shoot-em-up will be dramatically enhanced through headphones and who knows? Your game play might even benefit.

ARE THOSE HEADPHONES REALLY A DEAL?

The most important thing about getting 'cheap' headphones on Amazon Prime Day is to check they're actually cheap. Where possible we will let you know if deals are solid gold, or slightly bronze based on previous sales, deals and reductions over the product's life span.

T3'S MANY HEADPHONES BUYING GUIDES

- [Best wireless headphones](#)
- [Best true wireless headphones](#)
- [Best over-ear headphones](#)
- [Best noise-cancelling headphones](#)
- [Best gym headphones and headphones for running](#)
- [Best wired in-ear buds](#)

T3'S PICK OF LIKELY AMAZON PRIME DAY HEADPHONES DEALS

These are educated guesses as to what will be on sale on Monday and Tuesday (July 15-16) at Amazon. We will of course bring you the actual deals when the Prime Day madness begins on Monday. So what

T3

JUL 14 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

7.88M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

22.3K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

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We will of course bring you the *actual* deals when the Prime Day embargoes lift on Monday. So what high-tech ear muffs should you be searching for when Prime Day dawns? Let's go to Deaf-con 1...

SONY WH-1000XM3



(Image credit: Sony)

The latest iteration of Sony's best-selling noise cancelling Bluetooth headphones are brilliant both with music and voice. The quality of noise suppression is second to none; unlike rival noise cancelling headphones, these Sony's feature a powerful QN1 processing chip able to combat general hubbub in real time.

The WH-1000XM3 are extremely comfortable (note the padded headphone band), certainly snug enough to last a long-haul flight; they also offer clever touch awareness. Dabbing the right ear cup allows you to momentarily listen to exterior announcements.

With a generous 30 hour battery life, you'll not panic if you forget to charge them before leaving for the silent disco. Keep an eye out not just for these but also old stocks of WH-1000XM2 or even the original WH-1000X. They are not all that different to the latest model.

• [Shop Sony headphones at Amazon](#)

BOWERS & WILKINS P9 SIGNATURE



T3

JUL 14 2019

(IMAGE 3 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **7.88M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **22.3K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **80**



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(Image credit: Brand)

If you're looking for high performance, wired hi-fi headphones that don't complain at being plugged directly into a phone, keep an eye open for a Prime Day deal on Bowers & Wilkins sumptuous Signature P9. Designed with the audiophile in mind, they boast supreme clarity and spatial imaging, and have sophisticated styling. If you've amassed a collection of high resolution audio tracks, these headphones will be the perfect match, but unlike a lot of audiophile headphones they will work quite happily with your mobile – although using a [portable DAC](#) is of course preferred.

• [Shop for Bowers & Wilkins headphones at Amazon](#)

SENNHEISER MOMENTUM TRUE WIRELESS



(Image credit: Brand)

Sennheiser has an enviable reputation when it comes to high calibre audio and it's first True Wireless in-ears don't disappoint. They offer helpful touch control and support both music and calls, but also a solid job when it comes to noise cancellation. Arguably not the sexiest true wireless headphones available, these sound excellent and have a four-hour plus battery life, making them a legit AirPods alternative.

UPDATE: Sennheiser informs us there won't be any official deals on Momentum True Wireless, but keep an eye out for 3rd-party deals and other Sennheiser headphones and buds...

• [Shop for Sennheiser headphones at Amazon](#)

RIG 600HX



T3

JUL 14 2019

(IMAGE 4 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **7.88M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **22.3K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **80**



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(Image credit: Brand)

When shortlisting gaming headphones, an entirely different set of criteria comes into play. Ideally headsets should be light and spatially precise. The RIG 600HX are an excellent option. Compatible with Xbox One, PS4 and PC, there's support for Dolby Atmos content while high resolution 40mm drivers keep details crisp. Relatively inexpensive, even when must not discounted, they could prove an irresistible Prime Day Deal deal

• [Shop for RIG headphones at Amazon](#)

PLANTRONICS BACKBEAT PRO 2



(Image credit: Brand)

Could these be an Amazon Prime Day Bluetooth headphone steal? Offering active noise cancelling, with active open-listening mode (useful for station announcements), they're stylish enough for everyday use and consistently fun to listen too. The Backbeat range have always been comfortable beyond their station, but don't expect the same calibre of noise cancelling as you'll find on more expensive Sony or Bose cans.

• [Shop for Plantronics headphones at Amazon](#)

MORE AMAZON PRIME DAY HEADPHONES DEALS TO LOOK OUT FOR...



T3

JUL 14 2019

(IMAGE 5 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **7.88M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **22.3K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **80**



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This shady character has grabbed a bargain

(Image credit: Brand)

Headphones are an everyday essential, whether listening to playlists, catching up on an audiobook or sniggering along to a podcast. Most of us own more than one pair, because different styles suit different pastimes.

In-ear headphones, often called earbuds, are typically low cost and wired. Budget buds are not known for their audio quality, and can prove uncomfortable over long periods. However, venture up the price scale and performance and comfort improve dramatically. Focal's Bluetooth Spark wireless earbuds are properly premium, for example, while SoundMagic wireless headphones are always astonishing VFM, even when there's *not* a sale on.

• [Shop Focal headphones at Amazon](#)

• [Shop SoundMagic buds at Amazon](#)

On-ear headphones sit atop your ears. Not as isolating as over-ear cups, they're typically smaller than over-ear models, making them easier to pop in a bag. Value is also usually higher. We reckon the AKG Y500 wireless cans are something of a bargain, at £130, while Urbanista's Seattle line looks sharp without breaking the bank, at £60.

• [Shop AKG headphones at Amazon](#)

• [Shop Urbanista headphones at Amazon](#)

Over-ear headphones, aka full-size headphone, completely cover your ears. Sometimes called circumnaural, they're the headphone style of choice for Hi-Fi enthusiasts, typically using larger drivers for greater clarity and immersion. The retro-styled, open-backed Grado SR80e are great for at home solo listening, and will typically set you back less than £100.

• [Shop Grado headphones at Amazon](#)

The biggest buzz in headphones right now is True Wireless. These in-ear buds are completely wire free, unlike standard 'wireless' Bluetooth headphones which are typically tethered to each other. True wireless offer total freedom. The most common examples you'll see today are Apple's omnipresent AirPods, but [Beats Powerbeats Pro](#) and [Sony's new WF-1000XMK3](#) leave them behind when it comes to sound quality. The latter won't be available at Amazon as they don't launch until August but you might well find the old WF-1000X mark 1 going cheaper than usual.

• [Shop for true wireless headphones at Amazon](#)

Another contender is [Libratone Track Air±](#) which actually *launches* on Amazon Prime Day.

• [Shop for Libratone headphones at Amazon](#)

PRIME ESSENTIALS

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(IMAGE 6 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

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- [Very's Very Big Deals sale](#) – live now
- [Lovehoney UK 50% off sale](#) – live now
- [Goldsmiths sale](#) – live now
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- [Nike sale](#) – live now
- [Schuh sale](#) – live now
- [Office sale](#) – live now
- [Dr Martens sale](#) – live now
- [Walmart July sale](#) – July 14 to July 17
- [eBay US Crash Sale](#) – July 15
- [eBay US July Deals](#) – live now until July 20
- [Dell Black Friday in July](#) – live now until July 12
- [Newegg Fantas Tech sale](#) – live now until July 18
- [Target Deal Days](#) – July 15 and 16
- [Nordstrom Anniversary Sale](#) – July 19 to August 4
- [Lovehoney US 50% off sale](#) – live now

T3

JUL 14 2019

(IMAGE 7 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **7.88M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **22.3K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **80**



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Grado GW100 Review

Is Grado onto a winner with its first pair of wireless Bluetooth headphones?

Andrew Williams, July 18, 2019 8:11 am BST



Verdict

The Grado GW100 are a great sounding pair of wireless headphones, but not all that practical to use if you're outside. With their open nature they don't block out

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that practical to use if you're outside. With their open nature they don't block out much sound and are plenty leaky, making the addition of wireless connectivity less useful.


Pros

- ✓ Great sub-bass tone and impact
- ✓ Top quality stereo imaging
- ✓ Classic Grado elements are here

Cons

- ✗ Sound a little soft and safe compared to some older models
- ✗ A lot of sound leakage
- ✗ Mildly flawed Bluetooth reception


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Key Specifications

- Review Price: £179
- 15-hour battery life
- aptX
- 320mAh battery
- Open cup design
- Bluetooth 4.2
- 20Hz-20kHz

Grado is one of the giants of audiophile headphones, but still markets itself as a family run company. You'll see photos of three members of the Grado family when you open the box. Its headphones have barely changed over the years and the Grado GW100 is a huge departure in one sense, and barely one at all in others.

These are a Bluetooth wireless version of the [SE80e](#). They cost £179 and sound lovely, with an even more accommodating sound than some previous Grado sets.

But as they are still more-or-less open backed, they are all-but useless in the usual wireless headphone settings.

Related: [Best headphones](#)



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Grado GW100 design and features — An open-backed pair that's not well-suited to public spaces

Almost every pair of portable headphones puts, at the very least, a wall of plastic between your music and the outside world. The Grado GW100 does not, because that would require a complete redesign of Grado headphones. And that's not what Grado fans want.

The company hasn't simply crammed Bluetooth into the SR80e. Grado says the new housing is designed to stop 60% of sound leakage.

In use, the Grado GW100 seem a lot like standard open-back headphones. Use them along a busy road and you'll hear passing cars as much as your music. They aren't suitable for quiet offices. And, please, don't use them on buses or trains. They leak too much.

Confident bass means the sound is not destroyed, but you'll annoy everyone nearby.

Related: [Best wireless Bluetooth headphones](#)

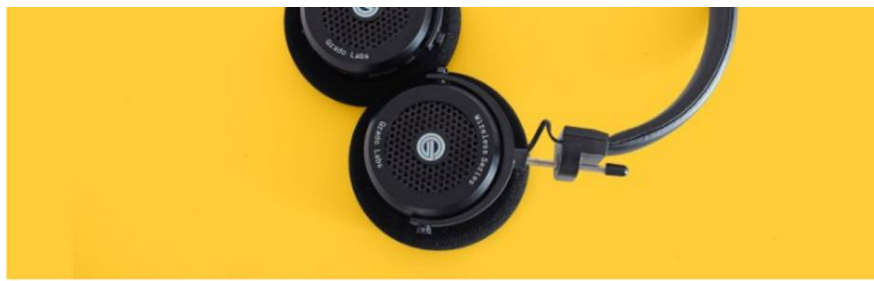


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So where do the Grado GW100 fit in? They are great for listening around the house, or outdoors if you live in the countryside. I also find them surprisingly good as a runner's headphones. Disclaimer: I mostly run in a park, not along a noisy road.

You can hear your surroundings well enough, the Grado GW100 don't bounce around as they are very light and the pads are just about comfy enough. The foam pads also detach with a quick yank. You can give them a rinse if you like.



The on-cup buttons are slightly irritating during runs, though. You'll hear little clicks as the volume rocker moves under all that gravity.

Aside from these buttons and the rubber bung-equipped microUSB charger port, the GW100 seem just like the other on-ear style Grado headphones. The cups are tough plastic, the headband is covered with relatively cheap-feeling vinyl leather, and the two are joined by a thick length of metal that looks like it might have been clipped off a heavy duty coat hanger.

These headphones don't look or feel hugely robust. In my

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(IMAGE 4 OF 8)

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These headphones don't look or feel hugely robust. In my experience, though, Grado headphones are surprisingly hardy.

Grado has not attempted anything too dramatic on the tech side. These headphones have 15-hour battery life — not amazing, not bad — and three buttons on the side. There's a power button that doubles as play/pause. And a volume rocker that changes tracks. You can use a cable too.

Related: [Headphone drivers – Dynamic vs planar magnetic vs electrostatic](#)



Bluetooth performance is OK. You can buy £50 wireless headphones with virtually flawless performance, and the Grado GW100 still suffer from the odd blip. Today, for example, I've heard about five stutters in around three hours of listening.

This is not up to the level of the big names in wireless headphones, but shouldn't put off many. Performance does seem to vary between phones, as some buyers complain about bad signal in reviews online.

Grado GW100 sound quality — a rich and engaging performer

The Grado website makes the GW100 sound just like the wired Grado headphones, but with Bluetooth. That's not quite what I hear here, though. For better and worse.

Most of the top characteristics remain, though. The Grado GW100 have just about the best stereo imaging you'll hear

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(IMAGE 5 OF 8)

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GW100 have just about the best stereo imaging you'll hear at the price – even better than the Audio Technica [ATH-M50XBT](#), a pair of headphones with particularly wide and engaging sound.

Of course, the Grado GW100 have the sound scale upper hand by design. Using open back cups is like turning up to a swimming competition with flippers (and just like an open back, they are not all that suitable for trains either).

Related: [Audio Technica ATH-M50XBT review](#)



Low bass slam and tone is excellent too. Sub-60Hz beats, those bass notes you seem to feel as much as hear, sound fantastic through the Grado GW100.

In some ways these headphones are not exactly what I recall from the [SR60e](#), SR325 and SR80e, though. I remember, perhaps five years ago, warning a former *Trusted Reviews* staff member that while one of Grado's lower-end pairs did indeed sound great, the upper mids could just about take your head off with some songs. They were compromising and sharp, but unusually textured and detailed.

The Grado GW100's are much softer. There's still a lot of detail, but vocals tend to sound safely rounded-off. When paired with a significant amount of extra padding around the upper bass (around 250Hz), you get the sense Grado may have gone a little too far in making the signature closer to "mainstream" wireless headphones.

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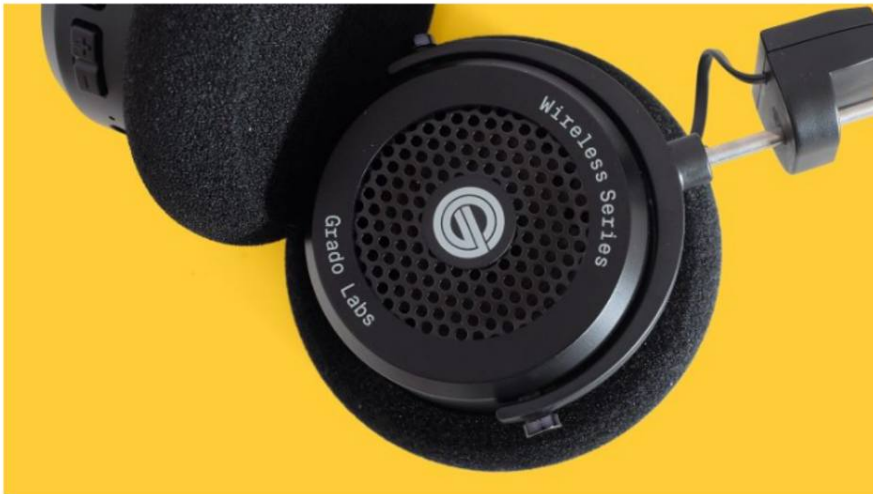
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The electronics are, in part, the cause. If you plug in a cable, which turns the Grado GW100's powered bits off, the upper mids sound a little more pronounced and the upper bass slightly less inflated. This should, in theory, leave some more room or "air" for the imaging, but soundstage consistency and richness may actually be little better in wireless mode. You win some, you lose some.

I would like the Grado GW100's sound better if it were more neutral, and had some more upper mid and treble bite. But these are the most accommodating and accessible affordable Grado headphones I've heard to date.

Grumbles aside, they are rich, exciting and engaging.



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(IMAGE 7 OF 8)

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Should I buy the Grado GW100?

The Grado GW100 take what made the older entry-level Grado headphones so popular among headphone nerds, and pack them into a pair that seems more palatable in 2019. They are wireless, the upper mids are less challenging, but you still get great low-bass slam and a super-engaging sound field.

Bluetooth signal reliability could be better, I think they'd benefit from a mid-bass diet and some more upper-frequency bite. More salad, fewer chips. But simple practical concerns are the real reason to pause.

The Grado GW100 block out very little outside noise and leak a lot of sound, too. They are not well-suited to public transport or quiet offices – two of the key places to use wireless headphones.

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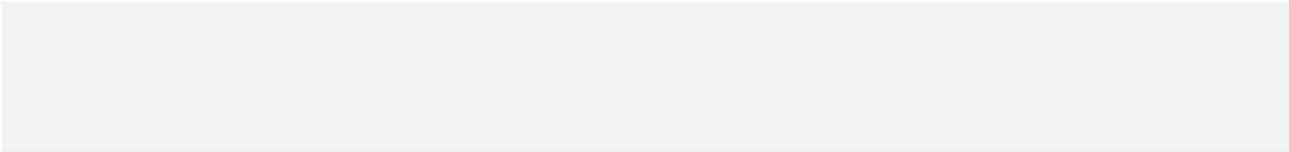
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BY JOHNNY DAVIS 17/07/2019



GRADO

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GRADO

SHOP

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Design



Brooklyn-based Grado Labs has been hand-building high-end headphones since the early 1950s, which may or may not account for the fact that they tend to make you look like a WWII fighter pilot off for a dogfight.

Esquire

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(IMAGE 2 OF 3)

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Distinctive looks aside they have the sharpness, heft and detail more commonly found in loudspeakers, not headphones. Made for home hi-fi listening, as there's little sound isolation, so they leak music like mad. The fact that they are built to outlast your hi-fi make them a lifetime investment.

Grado Grade PS1000e Professional Series Open Backed Headphones; £1,884; [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

Esquire

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Grado GW100 Review: A Wireless Variant Of The Iconic Grado Design



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Grado GW100 - RTINGS.COM RTINGS.COM

The wireless Grado GW100 are above-average critical listening headphones. They have a comfortable on-ear fit and are very lightweight which is important for long listening sessions. Other Grado models tend to lack in bass, but the GW100 have a decent sound overall and deliver a very good bass, especially for an open-back design. However, they still sound a little bright for some and like most open headphones, the Grado GW100 are not made to isolate the wearer from the outside world. You will easily hear what's going on around you and they leak a lot of audio into their surroundings, which makes them a poor choice for commuting. That said, if you work from home or in a small, quiet office, you'll appreciate their great wireless range.



▶ 0:00

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

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wireless range.

Pros

+ Lightweight, comfortable on-ear design

+ More bass than wired Grado models

Cons

- Very high leakage, by design

- No isolation from ambient noise, by design

Design

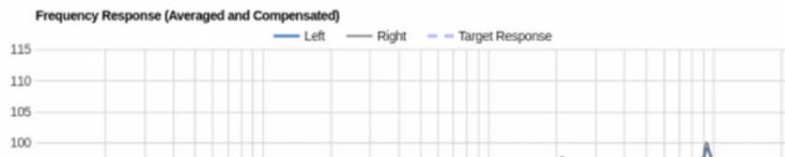
Type: Wireless On-Ear

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The GW100 headphones sport Grado's signature retro style, with all-black circular metal ear cups and a padded headband. They are comfortable headphones and very lightweight. The on-ear fit is not for everyone, but the soft material covering the ear cups feels decent. The GW100 are Grado's first wireless model and they have a pretty ordinary control scheme that is easy-to-use and provides good tactile feedback. The voice prompt is very loud, however, and there is no way to lower its volume. This may be a deal-breaker for some, as the voice prompts do get a bit irritating. The GW100 feel more robust than most of the other headphones in the Grado SR lineup, but they still have plastic joints that feel quite cheap. Although they have decent clamping force, these headphones aren't very stable once on your head and fall relatively easily during bouts of more intense physical activity. On the upside, they are more breathable than most over-ear models and their wireless design means they're less likely to get snagged on something and yanked off your head.

Sound



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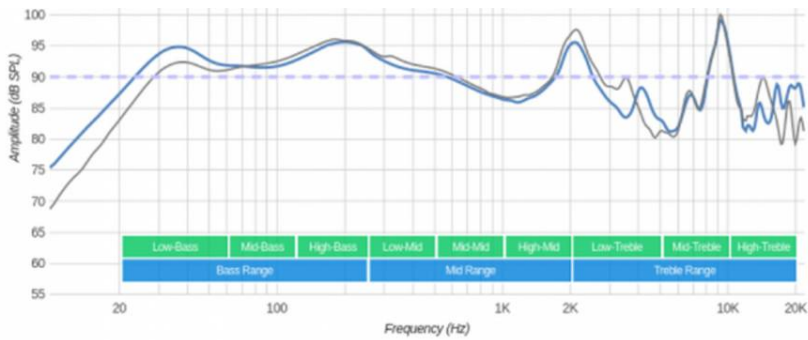


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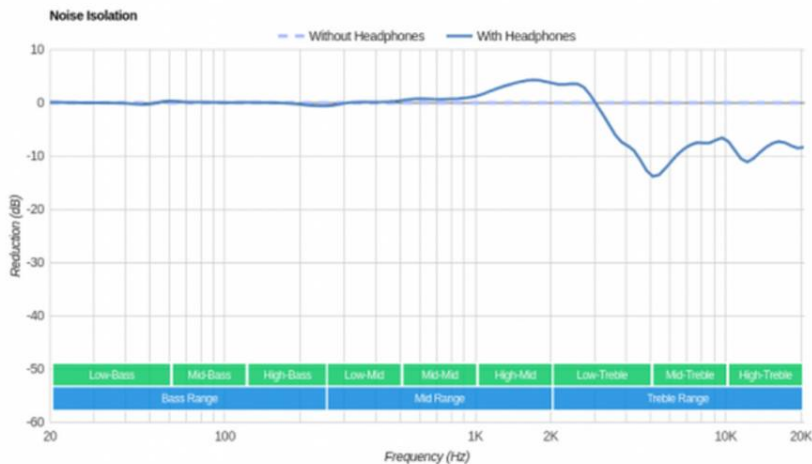




Grado GW100 Frequency Response Graph - RTINGS.COM RTINGS.COM

The Grado GW10 have decent sound for open-back on-ear headphones. Compared to other similarly priced Grado models, their bass is a bit better; it provides an appropriate amount of thump and rumble to suit more bass-heavy genres and enough punch for bass guitars and kick drums to sound decent as well. The higher frequencies of the bass range are overemphasized quite a bit though, which results in a more muddied sound. Their mid-range is fairly even, but a section of the mid-range closer to the treble is quite recessed, pushing vocals and lead instruments back. Their treble performance is passable, but rather uneven, so brighter sounds, like high vocals, leads and cymbals lack a bit of detail but will also sound a bit too sharp at times depending on the track. These headphones have great sound consistency though, sounding similar across different testers with consistent bass and treble delivery across multiple users, regardless of head shape and size. Also, because these headphones are open-back, they do a slightly better job at creating a more spacious and open sound than most closed-back headphones.

Isolation



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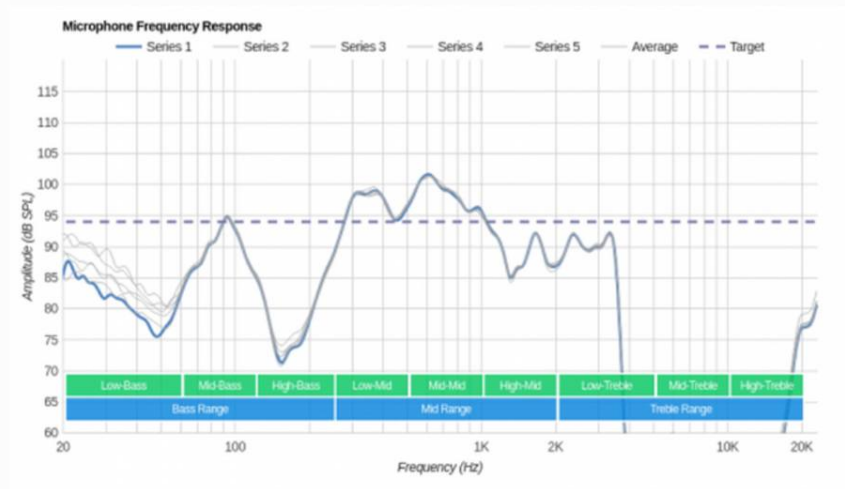
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Noise-canceling: No

The Grado GW100 are, by design, rather awful at noise isolation. This isn't necessarily due to a quality issue though; open-back headphones just simply cannot provide the same level of isolation that closed-back headphones can. These headphones intentionally let in a bit of ambient noise from their environment to create an open sound. This means they don't mask the noise of the outside world and are not well suited to bus commutes or busy offices. That said, the GW100 leak less sound than other Grado models. However, their leakage is still quite loud, so you may want to be mindful of listening to loud music around other people in public or at work. You'll be able to better appreciate the open feel of these headphones in a quieter space.

Microphone



Grado GW100 Microphone Frequency Response - RTINGS.COM RTINGS.COM

Mic Type: Integrated

The GW100 have an unremarkable integrated microphone. The recording quality is below average, so speech recorded with this mic will sound quite thin, noticeably muffled and will lack in detail. The microphone also delivers sub-par performance in respect to noise-handling. It struggles to separate speech from ambient noise as soon as outside noise levels start to rise. People on the other line may have a hard time hearing you if you take a call on a busy street or on the bus. All things considered though, this mic is still not bad at transmitting understandable speech in quiet environments. It's fine for taking calls in quiet hallways or empty rooms and

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quiet environments. It's nice for taking calls in quiet hallways or empty rooms and should meet most people's needs.

Active Features

Battery Life: 15.5 hrs

Charge Time: 1.75 hrs

App Support: No

Passive Playback: Yes

The wireless Grado GW100 have a decent rechargeable battery that holds a charge long enough to last well through a long work day. If you leave with a full charge in the morning, by the time you're home from work you should still have a couple hours left before you need to charge them again. Unfortunately, they don't have any power saving features and won't turn off automatically if you accidentally leave them on. They do charge fairly quickly though, and you can even use them with the included audio cable when their battery dies. The GW100 do not come with a companion app to customize your listening experience on your computer or smartphone like some of the best wireless headphones.

Connectivity

Bluetooth: Yes

Wired: Yes

Wireless Range: 52 ft

Latency: 224 ms

The connectivity features of the Grado GW100 are a little disappointing. These are the company's first wireless model and they support Bluetooth version 4.2, but do not support multi-device pairing. You can only pair these headphones with one device at a time and you must disconnect them manually each time you want to switch to a different device. They also have pretty high latency like most Bluetooth headphones, meaning they're not ideal for streaming videos or gaming wirelessly. The good news is they have great wireless range, and even come with an audio cable that you can use to bypass lag issues completely.

Who Should Buy Them?

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Grado GW100 Box - RTINGS.COM RTINGS.COM

If you love the feel of an on-ear fit and are looking for comfortable wireless headphones that are decent-sounding enough for critical listening, get the Grado GW100. These headphones have decent treble, good bass and a great mid-range that makes them versatile for a wide variety of music genres, from rock to classical to hip-hop, even if they may sound a little bright for some. They are lightweight and offer decent breathability, thanks to their open on-ear design, so they won't get too heavy or sweaty during a long listening session. They also have a good battery life and you can even use them passively with their included audio cable if the battery dies. Unfortunately, since they are open back headphones, the GW100 offer little to no noise isolation and leak a lot of sound at high volumes, so they are most enjoyable in the comfort of your own home or in a music studio, for example. They also have too much latency to stream video or play video games wirelessly, but that can also be resolved by using a wired connection. All-in-all, these are decent wireless critical listening headphones that are sure to please fans of Grado's signature look and style.

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To see all our measurements and our test results of the Grado GW100, please go [here](#).

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4 Tips To Recruit, Hire and Retain Opportunity Youth



Annaliese Calhoun Brand Contributor
Grads of Life **BRANDVOICE**





GETTY

Over the past 18 months, [Grads of Life](#) has guided multiple employers through designing custom opportunity youth (OY) talent pipelines. While the industries have varied from finance to skilled trades, we've seen a lot of similarities in what it takes to successfully develop and implement a new inclusive talent strategy. Here are 4 effective ways to jump-start the expansion of your talent pipeline to include OY:

1. Understand your target hires

To effectively recruit and retain opportunity youth, companies must first develop a deeper understanding of this population's priorities, needs, and strengths. Consider visiting a local workforce development provider that specializes in training opportunity youth so that you can meet these young adults and hear their stories firsthand. Listen to what matters to them and understand the barriers they face and the assets they can bring to your workplace. Get inspired by watching [7-second resumes](#) belonging to opportunity youth.

2. Identify the barriers in your talent pipeline

In our solutions-minded business culture, it's all too easy to jump to answer without first understanding the underlying problems. To build an efficient [talent pipeline](#), start by uncovering what's blocking it now. A great way to identify current pain points from recruiting through advancement is to interview or anonymously survey frontline staff and their [managers](#). Ask what made it hard to get hired or succeed in their jobs. Ask if they know how to be promoted or if they can list the benefits that are available to them. Employers who thought they had clear messaging about career paths within their companies have often been surprised to hear that their frontline workers are unfamiliar with the career paths their company offers or the

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frontline workers are unfamiliar with the career paths their company offers or the benefits that can help them be successful.

Dig deep into your turnover and advancement data to see which types of employees and roles are staying and being promoted. Try to pinpoint when in their tenure employees are most likely to leave and what factors are involved. Get really clear on a small set of systemic barriers, which if addressed, could make a big difference for opportunity youth and employees in general.

3. Create the best possible experience

Once you have a prioritized list of talent pipeline pain points to tackle, explore how best in class “opportunity employers” address these challenges. These are employers who are committed to making strategic investments that build diverse entry-level talent pipelines, support frontline worker retention and productivity. A few of their best practices for hiring and retaining OY include offering:

a. *Simplified hiring processes:* Unnecessary 4-year degree requirements, multiple employment reference checks, and pre-hire assessments can all be barriers that exclude otherwise job-ready OY. Similarly, long interviewing and background check processes can make it difficult for OY to stay engaged if they have obstacles for attending interviews (e.g., transportation) or urgent financial needs.

b. *Alternative screening methods:* Managers typically only spend seven seconds reviewing a resume and may easily screen out an OY who appears to lack experience. Adopting 7-Second Resumes offers young adults a way to highlight in short videos the qualities they have acquired through life experience that add to their value as employees.

c. *Ongoing career coaching:* Adjusting to a new workplace’s culture and expectations can be challenging. Help OY succeed by training managers on how to coach and mentor their reports, particularly on topics related to professionalism and career advancement.

Attracting quality entry-level OY talent requires investing in best practices that improve the experience of candidates, new hires, and long-term employees at touchpoints across the pipeline. These improvements often lead to improved morale and culture across the organization.

4. Allocate resources for success

Building an effective OY talent pipeline requires dedicating sufficient staff and money to actually implement your chosen practice changes. Otherwise, improvements stall out and daily fires take precedence. Companies that have seen

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Grado headphones, £200

The GW100s are the first wireless Bluetooth cans from Grado and are loud, deep, detailed and sweet



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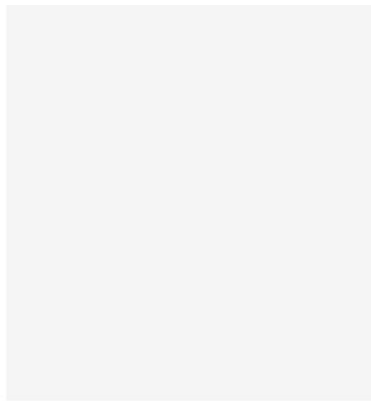
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Best Headphones 2019 Wired and Wireless



Author: [Curtis Moldrich](#)

If you're looking for a pair of headphones in 2019, you're spoiled for choice; at every price point there are countless cans from the likes of Sennheiser, Bowers and Wilkins and others – but that can make buying a pair fairly daunting. To make your decision easier, we've handpicked our favourite headphones from various price-points, wireless and non-wireless, so you can get the headphone that most suits your listening habits.



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£229

[BUY NOW FROM AMAZON](#)

Sennheiser is a name synonymous with listening gear, and these Momentum 2.0s harness the audi giants learnings. Stylish, light and comfortable the Momentum 2.0s feature the sound most have come to expect from Sennheiser products. Sound is full-bodied and accurate, with bass, mid-range and treble delivered with detail – but in a measured, natural way. And one more thing, they're even foldable, so you can use them on the go.

SENNHEISER HD25

£189.99



Amazon Prime Day



Best Racing Wheels



Best Racing Games



Best Tablets 2019 We Review The Best



(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

16.9K

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

149

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

6



£189.99

BUY NOW FROM AMAZON

If you're a fan of electronic music, it's worth considering the HD25s. A stalwart in the electronic music scene, Sennheiser HD25s have become the headphone of choice for many DJs thanks to their bulletproof build quality and crystal-clear audio performance. Bass and treble are slightly boosted - hence their focus on EDM (Electronic Dance Music) - but they still offer detail few headphones can match. They're also modular, so if you do break them, it's easy to get spare parts.



Best Smartphones 2019 The Best Phone For You



Best Headphones 2019 Wired and Wireless



Best Bluetooth and Portable Speakers 2019

What's The Best

MAR 20 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 4)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: 16.9K

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: 149

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: 6



AIAIAI TMA II

£124.99

BUY NOW FROM AMAZON

Ignore the long-name and take a look at the slick, Scandinavian design of the AIAIAI TMA-IIs. If looks are as important as sound, these are worth trying out - but thankfully they're just as good at delivering music, too. In their base form the TMA IIs are impressive, but they're a system headphone, which means customers are able to mix-and-match components until the headphones look and sound exactly as they wish. Fancy a bit more base? Try changing your ear cups? Want new, neon-coloured cables? Pick up some new ones at AIAIAI's webstore.

By using this website, you agree to our use of cookies. We use cookies to provide you with a great experience and to help our website run effectively. [Click here](#) to read more.

DISMISS



BOWERS AND WILKINS P5

£229.99

BUY NOW FROM AMAZON

Bowers & Wilkins make a range of headphones - both wired and wireless - but these P5s sit in the sweet spot of the range. Compact but comfortable, these P5s are made of sumptuous materials and ooze quality that sets them apart from their competitors. Of course, that'd be useless without impressive sound performance, but the P5s deliver in that area too. They're able to give music strong authoritative bass, but still deliver vocals and percussion with precise detail.

What's The Best

MAR 20 2019

(IMAGE 3 OF 4)



GRADOS SR80E

£89

[BUY NOW FROM AMAZON](#)

If you're after something a little more special and unusual, you'll love Grado's SR80s. Everything about the Grado brand is different, from its family-owned business to the very construction of these headphones. The SR80es here feature an open-backed construction, which results in energetic response and a punchy mid-range; for rock and vocal-led tracks, they're hard to beat at this price. The SR80e's open-backed design does mean there's lots of sound leakage – so these aren't a pair of cans for the commute – but at just £89, they could always be your second pair for home

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

16.9K

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

149

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

6



AUDIO TECHNICA ATH M50X

£109

[BUY NOW FROM AMAZON](#)

These Audio Technica ATH M50Xs may look unassuming enough, but under their admittedly conservative exterior, they pack in some detailed tech and impressive sound. These Audio Technica's are actually based on headphones originally designed for music producers – hence their functional, studio-friendly look – and that means they're able to deliver clear and accurate, soundstages. And at £109, they're surprisingly cheap, too.



SONY WH-1000XM3

£284

[BUY NOW FROM AMAZON](#)

If you want a pair of headphones that'll pretty much do everything, Sony's WH-1000XM3 should be your first port of call. Simply put, they're packed for of technology; noise-cancelling, Bluetooth connectivity, and active control are



...cancelling, Bluetooth connectivity, and gesture control are just some of the features find on the spec sheet. Add Amazon's Alexa, incredible sound and a 30 hour battery life to the mix, and these are these are worth their £285 price tag.



PREVIOUS

Best Smartphones 2019 The Best Phone For You

NEXT

Best Bluetooth and Portable Speakers 2019

What's The Best

MAR 20 2019

(IMAGE 4 OF 4)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

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149

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

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Closer EMPIRE GRAZIA heat Mother & Baby Golfer TRAIL Running
Get off the beaten track

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Heart of glass
Rogue Audio's all-valve integrated is pure class

GROUP TEST

Personal stereo

Six earphones that get you closer to your favourite tunes



Hi-Fi Choice

JUN 17 2019

(IMAGE 1 OF 2)

Hi-Fi Choice

PASSION FOR SOUND

Issue No. 451

July 2019

Music master

NAD's fully-loaded M10 streaming amp

THE KNOWLEDGE

- How to set up your turntable
- Essential phono preamps
- Top vinyl accessories

BEAUTIFUL SYSTEM
Falcon Acoustics and Primare in perfect harmony

BETTER THAN BEING THERE

Best live experience albums of all time

28

PRODUCTS ON TEST:

Audiolab, Grado, Klipsch, Primephonic, Pro-Ject & SVS

JULY 2019
9 770955 111120
PRINTED IN THE UK
ISSN 0007



Innuos Zenith

Hi-res storage for all your networked audio needs

Ophidian tower

Evolution floorstander with knockout sonics

CIRCULATION:

10.5K





Grado GR10e £399

The flagship in-ear from this Brooklyn-based company takes a different approach, but will it pay dividends?

DETAILS

PRODUCT
Grado GR10e
ORIGIN
USA/Japan
TYPE
In-ear headphone
WEIGHT
9g
FEATURES
• Driver type: single moving armature
• 1x 1.3m cable
DISTRIBUTOR
Armour Home Electronics
TELEPHONE
01279 501111
WEBSITE
gradolabs.com

Compared with Grado's extensive range of full-sized headphones, its in-ear lineup is small, but in the case of the GR10e beautifully formed. This is an evolution of the original GR10 and while the basic design remains unchanged, Grado has worked to make its impedance more suitable for use with portable devices along with an improved frequency response and reduced distortion. This is the only single driver in-ear in the group and it is also the only model to make use of a moving

It is effortlessly capable of delivering rapid percussion with real snap and drive

armature – in fact it is one of only a tiny number of designs we've seen anywhere to do so (see box out). This design has immediate implications, most notable of which is that it's the smallest housing here by some way. It also does without some of the more elaborate porting and chamber arrangements designed into others. It's immaculately finished, the green metallic paint is beautifully applied and the overall feel is more like bespoke jewellery than a piece of serious audio equipment.

Despite the high-quality finish, there are some downsides. The GR10e doesn't have a detachable cable meaning a snag could yank it from

your ears, potentially damaging it in the process. The supplied accessories also feel unforgivably parsimonious for the £399 outlay, including just three sizes of silicone domes, four tiny earwax-proof cloths and two retention rings. There's no carry case of any description, which doesn't auger well for long-term survival. On the plus side, the small size and light housing weight mean it's a comfortable design to wear for extended periods.

Sound quality

The GR10e is extremely sensitive and shouldn't present any challenge for even the most low-level outputs. Even with the largest dome size selected, however, isolation is an issue and the Grado struggles to keep external noises at bay. Sound performance is a rather mixed bag with the biggest issue being a decidedly limited bass response. The opening organ notes of *Koyaanisqatsi* are almost lost and there simply isn't the weight needed to make them sound (and feel) convincing. The presentation is slightly constrained and lacks the space around the choir to give the track its usual open soundstage.

This is a shame because the midrange is gorgeous. It is expressive, tonally rich and fabulously quick. *Another State Line* is wonderfully involving as Abi Tapia's vocal and supporting instruments have a richness and vibrancy that draws you into the performance. Move on to the Kraftwerk track, though and things start to go awry. The Grado simply

IN-EAR HEADPHONES
£340-£500 **GROUPTEST**

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

The other five in-ear headphone designs in this group all make use of dynamic drivers (a shrunken version of what you would find in a normal loudspeaker), balanced armatures or a combination of the two. Grado is unique in this regard instead choosing to employ a moving armature, which is intended to reproduce the best qualities of both types. The larger-than-normal armature is suspended in a magnetic field and acts on a larger diaphragm to generate sound. The idea is that an in-ear design using this driver type can deliver the speed and simplicity of a single driver design, but with the added heft of a dynamic one.

Unlike other Grado products, the GR10e is designed at the company's headquarters in Brooklyn, New York, but its moving armature drivers – which are a fairly rare and recent technology – are manufactured by a commercial specialist in Japan.

lacks the scale and weight to make this hefty live recording sound as it should, although the timing is still quick and engaging. What is most frustrating is that simply substituting the supplied dome for a larger pair I have lying around improves the low-end performance considerably – a failing that could easily be solved by supplying a fourth, larger option.

The final White Lies track shows that the GR10e does its best work with better-quality recordings. It's not as aggressive as the Audiolab, but some of the compression present in the recording is clearly revealed. Again, the sheer speed and immediacy of the Grado is readily apparent and it's effortlessly capable of delivering the rapid percussion with real snap and drive, although there are still some limitations to its absolute bass depth ●

Hi-Fi Choice

OUR VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY
★★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY
★★★★★
BUILD QUALITY
★★★★★
FEATURES
★★★★★
OVERALL
★★★★★

LIKE: Compact design; expressive midrange and immediacy
DISLIKE: Limited bass; lack of spaciousness; ear tip selection
WE SAY: Exceptional design and build slightly overshadowed by its bass and soundstage limitations



Hi-Fi Choice

JUN 17 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 2)

CIRCULATION:

10.5K


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Still haven't found something for Father's Day? FEMAIL reveals the best last-minute gifts to make your Dad smile (and they cost as little as £2.60)

- FEMAIL picked out a selection of this year's best last minute gifts to treat your dad this Father's Day
- Featuring luxury and High Street items from just £2.65, there's something to suit all budgets
- Sports-mad Dads will go wild for tickets to watch Barbarians vs Fiji at Twickenham this November
- Meanwhile busy fathers can unwind with a spa treatment - or relax at home with a soothing scented candle

By [STEPHANIE LINNING](#) and [LATOYA GAYLE FOR MAILONLINE](#)
 PUBLISHED: 02:37 EDT, 14 June 2019 | UPDATED: 04:07 EDT, 14 June 2019



 [View comments](#)

Father's Day is this weekend but don't panic if you still haven't found the perfect present - we have searched far and wide to do the hard work for you.

FEMAIL has scoured High Street retailers and online stores to uncover the gifts that are sure to put a smile on your Dad's face this Sunday, and with prices starting at just £2.65, there's something to suit every budget.

Best of all they're all available for next day delivery so you can rest easy knowing your present will arrive in time for the big day.

Busy dads will be thrilled to receive their own personal assistant, with great prices on the Amazon Echo Dot and Google's latest Home Assistant Mini.

Meanwhile those with a taste for the finer things in life will be impressed by an Emporio Armani watch - a luxury

Mail Online

JUN 14 2019

(IMAGE 1 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **284M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **249K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **94**



Meanwhile those with a taste for the finer things in life will be impressed by an Emporio Armani watch, a luxury shaving kit, or a soothing scented candle.

Read on to discover some of our favourite Father's Day finds...

£20 AND UNDER

Walkers 3D Mini Golfer Carton (150g, 40 mini shortbread rounds)



If your Dad has already got the clubs and got the gloves, then this is the perfect gift to celebrate his favourite hobby this Father's Day. This delightful golf-themed carton of goodies is sure to put a smile on his face. And it costs just £2.65 - so won't break the bank.

£2.65

Shop

Ceramic Coaster by Juliet Reeves Designs



A perfect Father's Day, Birthday or thank you gift for your better half. This product comes with two red hearts and will come wrapped in a beautiful matching ribbon. It is also handmade and designed in Britain.

£10.00

Shop

Tickets to watch Barbarians vs Fiji at Twickenham, 16 November

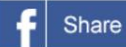


A rugby experience for the sports-mad Dad, on Saturday 16 November the Barbarians will return to Twickenham to face Fiji. Tickets are on sale now, costing £20 per adult and £15 per child as part of an early bird deal - but act fast because they won't be around for long!

£20.00 (£15 for child)

Shop

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Sony Over-Ear Headphones



These blue headphones from Sony are ideal

Beer Hawk Cheers Dad Beer Box (available until 4pm)



Beer Hawk's selection box of internationally-acclaimed beer is the best way to say

Ted Baker Tropical Traveller Wash Bag (available until 8pm)



Designed for the smartest of global explorers, Ted's brand new washbag takes the toucan print from his latest menswear collection, and wraps it around a kit of must-

Mail Online

JUN 14 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 9)

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These blue headphones from Sony are ideal for listening to music when you're out and about. The over-ear design makes them extremely comfortable and lets you get fully immersed in every guitar lick and piano chord.

£15

Shop

acclaimed beer is the best way to say 'Cheers' to dad this Father's Day. Alongside a custom 'Dad's Beer' tasting glass and a classic pair of beer-themed socks, the line-up of top beers showcases pale ales, IPAs and lagers from America, Australia and all over the UK.

£20.00

Shop

the classic print from the latest collection, and wraps it around a kit of must-have essentials – a hair & body wash and a body spray in 2 different fragrances, properly paired with a face cloth – for the ultimate travel companion.

£15.00

Shop

The Slipper Company Mens Moccasin Black Slipper



Designed for ultimate comfort, these cosy fleece lining slippers are the perfect item for dad's who want to maximise their relaxation from the moment they get home. They come in a classic check print with elasticated inserts for ease of wear.

£7.99

Shop

Baylis & Harding Fuzzy Duck Men's Gin Bath Bubbles Bottle Gift Set

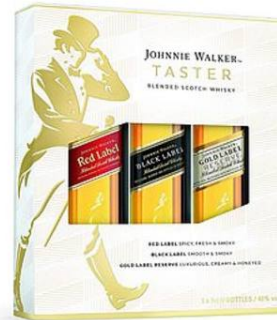


Baylis & Harding's Fuzzy Duck Men's Gin Bath Bubbles Gift Bottle makes a perfect addition to personal hampers this Father's Day. This green coloured bottle, reminiscent of fine gin packaging contains a 500ml Shower Gel. Union Jack bow detail is a fun touch.

£8

Shop

Johnnie Walker Taster Giftset



The perfect gift for the whisky lover in your life, this set contains three different Johnnie Walker varieties: Red Label, Black Label and Gold Label Reserve. All the 3 blends work brilliantly in a classic Highball cocktail.

£12

Shop

Energising Face Mask Sheet for Men



Father's will love this revitalising serum-soaked sheet mask formulated specifically for men's skin, targets fine lines, wrinkles, loss of elasticity and firmness. Skin appears more supple and youthful.

£4.99

Shop

Bulldog skincare bar soap



This easy to use soap creates a rich lather to gently cleanse, without leaving your skin feeling tight or dry. It's suitable for the face and body and contains willow herb, baobab and oat. Perfect for father's whose skin often gets irritated when shaving.

£3.50

Shop

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(IMAGE 3 OF 9)

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£20-£50

Mail Online

JUN 14 2019

(IMAGE 4 OF 9)

Ralph Lauren Polo Red Mens Eau de Toilette (available until 8pm)



For the man with drive, Ralph Lauren Fragrances' Polo Red, is an exhilarating fragrance with a daring confidence. With top notes of lemon, bergamot and juniper, it is sure to bring a spritz of extra zest to your Dad's morning regime.

£31.00

Shop

Grow Your Own Coffee Gift Set by the Gluttonous Gardener



Spoil a budding barista with a beautiful Coffee Plant gift. With a little love, care, and a warm spot on a bright windowsill, this handsome coffee plant will produce a harvest of beans for a homegrown espresso.

£44.00

Shop

Baylis & Harding Men's Black Pepper and Ginseng Weekend Away Travel Bag Gift Set



Baylis & Harding's Black Pepper & Ginseng Weekend Away Travel Bag contains everything for a relaxing trip away. Each item has been infused with Black Pepper and Ginseng as a perfect gift for the classic man who enjoys the finer things in life.

£40

Shop

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

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249K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

94

Amazon Echo Dot Smart Speaker with Alexa



This Echo Dot 3 Generation smart speaker from Amazon is the ultimate accessory for hands-free help around the home. It works via WiFi and is voice activated, so busy dad's can carry on with other tasks while getting help from virtual assistant Alexa.

£34

Shop

Evermore candle



Featuring fresh notes of pine trees and eucalyptus - this candle has the perfect outdoor scent to aid relaxation and moments of refocusing. Hand-poured in a handsome black glass jar, the sustainable rapeseed wax blended with soy wax, offers a creamy, long-lasting and clean burn. Mood-enhancing and environmentally friendly, it's the perfect way to sensorially indicate some me-time for Dad.

£48

Shop

Ted Baker Wireless Desktop Charger



An essential addition to any home or office, the Ted Baker JAMILO Wireless Desk Charger is your new favourite home-decor accessory. Crafted from premium taupe leather and a gorgeous rose-gold aluminium JAMILO is not only stylish but is made with the latest fast charging technology. Fast charged enabled, simply place your Qi enabled device on Ted's charging pad, JAMILO for instant wireless charging.

£50

Shop

Flymo Grass Line Trimmer

Luxury Pantherella gift boxes

Google Home Assistant Mini



Flymo Grass Line Trimmer



Father's who love the outdoors will be thrilled to receive this Flymo corded electric grass line trimmer, suitable for trimming and edging various sized gardens. It has a nylon cutting line, which cuts with a 25 cm width. It also has a lengthy 10 m cable to avoid the need for an extension lead.

£34

Shop

Luxury Pantnerella Gift Boxes



This velvet-lined gift box is filled with 3 pairs of the World's Finest Merino Wool, Laburnum Socks for father's who enjoy the most luxurious things in life. The Made In England items are a classic style that can be easily paired with any outfit.

£45

Shop

Google Home Assistant Mini



Google Home Mini, powered by Google, gives you dynamic sound that fills the room. Its speaker delivers 360° sound to bring your music to life, and can stream your music through your Google Assistant-compatible speakers.

£49

Shop

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(IMAGE 5 OF 9)

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£50 AND OVER

Stargazing Experience In Wales by Dark Sky Wales



Treat your Dad to the incredible experience of gazing up at the stars in some of the darkest skies in the UK. Accompanied by your own astronomer, you will take a tour of the night sky, viewing familiar and unfamiliar constellations of the northern hemisphere.

Emporio Armani Gunmetal Ion Plated Men's Watch



Help your Dad make a bold statement of designer style with this Emporio Armani gunmetal ion plated men's watch. This stylish watch is fastened with a gunmetal ion plated stainless steel mesh bracelet and features a 46mm gunmetal ion plated stainless steel case with a polished finish.

Grado GW100



The Grado GW100 are the worlds first open-back, aptX Bluetooth headphones. With a 15 hour battery life, the GW100s offer speaker housings and internal components that have been designed from the ground up, now working in tandem to notably diminish

the night sky, viewing familiar and unfamiliar constellations of the northern hemisphere, find various deep sky objects.

£55.00 (per person)

[Shop](#)

Hyundai Volts Combi Drill



Father's who love decorating will be thrilled with this Hyundai cordless drill that has everything you need for a bit of weekend DIY. It's battery powered, meaning it can breeze through dozens of tasks before needing to be charged. Being a combi drill, it's great for both delicate surfaces like drywall and things like wood and metal that would normally put up more of a fight.

£59

[Shop](#)

Philips Series 7000 12-in-1 Ultimate Multi Grooming Kit MG7735 Gift Set - Limited Edition (available until 8pm)



This amazing limited edition gift set, available at Boots, includes 12 quality tools for styling face, hair and body - all in a premium wash bag.

£50.00

[Shop](#)

features a 46mm gunmetal ion plated stainless steel case with a polished finish.

£329.00

[Shop](#)

Theragun's G3 Massage Device



The G3 is one of two brand new streamlined versions of their state of the art G3PRO model, as the ultimate tool for all Dads wanting to enhance their overall fitness, health and wellbeing in an incredibly efficient way. Providing deep muscle and pain-relief that not only warms up muscles but fast tracks recovery, their devices also help increase mobility and improve posture, to see your Dad sleep better at night.

£275

[Shop](#)

Marshall Stockwell II



The Marshall Hit The Road series is their most portable range of speakers to date, giving you more flexibility than ever - without compromising on sound. Each speaker in the Marshall portable range delivers more than 20 hours of wireless listening at a range of 30 feet (10 metres).

£219.99

[Shop](#)

working in tandem to notably diminish escaping sound by up to 60%.

£199.94

[Shop](#)

SIXPAD's Abs Fit 2 Training Device



SIXPAD are experts when it comes to the latest developments in electrical muscle stimulation training technology and their Abs Fit 2 product is the perfect gift for any Dad looking to tone up or give their lifestyle a boost. The Abs Fit 2 delivers a targeted 23-minute workout of the abdominal muscles through six wings sculpted to scale the region perfectly

£230

[Shop](#)

Casamigos tequila



Casamigos is part owned by actor George Clooney. The process is slow, with the agave roasted for 10 times the average and fermented for twice as long. The silver is rested for two months after distillation and is the ultimate indulgence for busy dad's this Father's Day.

£56.75

[Shop](#)

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(IMAGE 6 OF 9)

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(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

249K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

94

£50.00

Shop

The Weekender



The Weekender from Bennett Winch was created with travel in mind. The brand's signature bag, it features a thoughtfully-conceived interior comprising a series of functional pockets and compartments. A padded laptop sleeve ensures your computer is carried securely, making it a practical piece of luggage for father's who love to explore.

£575

Shop

dryrobe's Ultimate Outdoor Change Robe



For Dads that like to take a walk on the wild side, look no further than dryrobe as producers of the world's most advanced change robe. Born from surfing but now catering for a whole host of activities and pursuits, their products allow individuals to get active outdoors without ever feeling wet or cold, through a garment that's shell is both windproof and waterproof with insulating fabrics at its core.

£70

Shop

Men's C+ Energy Facial



£219.99

Shop

Air-Safe Manicure Set



This award-winning travel manicure set is beautifully presented in either black or midnight blue long grain leather with a contrasting red or white interior. Ingeniously, all of its crystal-edge instruments have rounded ends to conform to international restrictions on hand luggage for air travel.

£225

Shop

Rightangled's Fitness DNA Test



As the only DNA Testing company to be CQC certified and NHS backed, Rightangled are experts when it comes to providing individuals with genetic insight that can help you shape your lifestyle to unlock your full potential. Through their bespoke fitness test, Dads can obtain a more personalised level of detail than ever before surrounding topics such as diet and nutrition, exercise response and body and weight management.

£119

Shop

Limited Edition Premium Season Passes



£56.75

Shop

JAM Record Turntable



Music lovers will love bringing their classic records to life with this Play 48 turntable by JAM. The manual return arm gives you complete control over the needle, letting you gently lower it to keep your vinyl in great condition. You'll be able to take song requests at your next party too, as it supports all three speed formats - 33, 45 and 78 RPM - and you can start listening straight away with the built-in speakers.

£60

Shop

Therapeutic Hot Stone Massage



The stones are volcanic in origin and rich in minerals, the direct heat they emit penetrates the body, warming up tight muscles and improving circulation. Father's who are always on the go will love this opportunity to relax.

£100

Shop

Neubau Mark sunglasses



Mail Online

JUN 14 2019

(IMAGE 7 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

284M

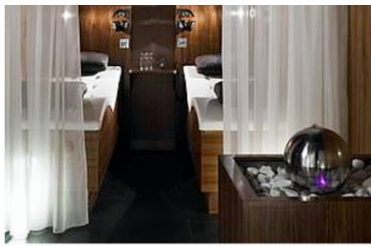
(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

249K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

94





This therapy has been designed to specifically meet the needs of men's skin, targeting the appearance of wrinkles, dryness and signs of premature ageing. It's ideal for father's who want to revitalize their skin and embrace a new lease of life.

£100

Shop

Husky HY192 Mini Fridge/Drinkhiller



The Husky HY192 is a stylish black refrigerator with a capacity of up to 40 330ml/440ml cans. It has a double-layer glass door and recessed handle making it easy to clean. Compressor based technology and a adjustable thermostat make sure your drinks are at the perfect drinking temperature and are ready on demand.

£133.97

Shop



Offering all of the fantastic perks that the Premium Season Pass offers, Thorpe Park's Limited Edition Premium Season Pass also comes complete with additional, exclusive extras that will impress thrill seeking dads. With over 30 thrilling rides, attractions and a whole host of brand-new immersive events set to launch.

£99

Shop

Einhell Power Drill



The Einhell cordless combi drill with brushless motor delivers exceptional power for a stress-free D.I.Y session. It's the ultimate gadget for father's who are always fixing something and enjoy making crafts around the home. It features an Ergonomic design with Softgrip for comfortable operation in addition to two speed settings for a speedy result.

£99

Shop



These stainless steel sunglasses are the perfect fashion accessory for father's who are always one step ahead when it comes to style. These resilient frames are able to provide 100% UVA/UVB protection while being super light.

£175

Shop

Mail Online

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(IMAGE 8 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

284M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

249K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

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Whatever happened to a card, a hug and time spent ...
by [Desperatefor sun](#) ↑16

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Ultimate Pet Nutrition



Senior Living Facilities Near Clifton Could Be Surprisingly Beautiful



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2019 Toyotas Worth Considering, and Why

Kelley Blue Book



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Women spank each other in bizarre competition held in Russia



Duchess meets former clients of addiction charity at event



Carrie Symonds leaves Boris Johnson's Tory campaign launch in London



Boris Johnson's girlfriend Carrie Symonds arrives at his launch



Former Riverdance dancer gives epic performance at her wedding



Thugs armed with crowbars and knives are caught running amok



Lorraine Kelly on GMB: 'There's something rotten in politics'



Dramatic coastal cliff collapse on Norfolk beach is caught on camera

Mail Online

JUN 14 2019

(IMAGE 9 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

284M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

249K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

94

Comments 8
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I just want to see my son's and grandchildren, having to buy something its a sales gimmick

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NEW! B&W's WIRELESS MUSIC SYSTEM

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REVIEWED

Cowon digital music player

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HOW TO...
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BEST BUYS
The only products worth considering

PORTABLE HEADPHONES

BIN THE BUNDLED BUDS AND INVEST IN BETTER SOUND

View offers whf.cm/BBHeadphones

In-ears up to £100

Beyerdynamic Byron £39

Best in-ears under £50, Awards 2018 *****
A spectacular return to the budget earphone arena for Beyerdynamic, the Byron sets the standard at this price with a peerless performance.
In-line controls Yes **Cable length** 1.2m

AWARD WINNER



SoundMagic E11C £50

January 2019 *****
The latest version of Soundmagic's budget in-ears continues to impress with a full-bodied, energetic and informative sound.
In-line controls Yes **Cable length** 1.2m



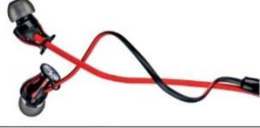
Beyerdynamic Soul Byrd £69

April 2019 *****
You'll struggle to find a better pair of in-ear headphones costing less than £70 than these Beyerdynamics.
In-line controls Yes **Cable length** 1.2m



Sennheiser Momentum M2 IEi £70

Best in-ears £50-£100, Awards 2017 *****
You wouldn't think anything so small could sound quite so good – not for just £80. But they are wonderfully smooth, expressive and balanced.
In-line controls Yes **Cable length** 1.3m



Klipsch R6i II £89

Best in-ears £50-£100, Awards 2018 *****
Our reigning Product of the Year in-ear headphones are as natural and transparent as they come at this price. Few can match their insight.
In-line controls Yes **Cable length** 1.2m

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR



£100 to £200

Bose SoundSport Pulse £179

February 2017 *****
The best-sounding pair of wireless in-ears we've heard so far. The modest battery life is a downside, but the sound is fun and enjoyable.
In-line controls Yes **Cable length** n/a



Shure SE425 £185

Best in-ears £100-£200, Awards 2018 *****
If you're serious about the quality of your in-ear headphones, we'd point you here. The energetic, immersive performance is irresistible.
In-line controls Yes **Cable length** 1.6m

AWARD WINNER



£200 to £500

Sony WI-1000X £206

February 2018 *****
The best of both worlds thanks to great sound and fine noise-cancelling capabilities. Absolutely worth your time and money.
In-line controls Yes **Cable length** 1m



Grado SR125e £135

December 2014 ★★★★★

These might look suited to the ears of a wartime radio operator, but they sound great. Best used in the home though, as they're very leaky.
Type Open **Connection** 3.5mm/6.5mm **Weight** 363g

**Sennheiser Momentum 2.0 £199**

Best portable on-ears £100+, Awards 2018 ★★★★★

We love the design, but it's more than just pretty – these Momentums are comfortable on your ears and fold away neatly when not in use.
Type Closed **Connection** 3.5mm **Weight** 240g

AWARD WINNER

**Grado SR325e £299**

Best home on-ears £100-£400, Awards 2018 ★★★★★

If you don't mind the amount of sound leaking from them, you're free to enjoy the fluid dynamics and wonderfully musical presentation.
Type Open **Connection** 3.5mm/6.5mm **Weight** 330g

AWARD WINNER

**Beyerdynamic Amiron £478**

Best home on-ears £400+, Awards 2018 ★★★★★

Beyerdynamic has produced a pair of headphones that sound as good as they feel. Be careful though; their open-backed nature leaks sound.
Type Open **Connection** 3.5mm/6.3mm **Weight** 340g

AWARD WINNER

**Audio Technica ATH-W1000Z £530**

March 2017 ★★★★★

The 11th version of the W1000z opts for evolution over revolution and with a spacious sound that packs power and punch, it's a good choice.
Type Closed **Connection** 6.3mm **Weight** 320g

**B&W P9 Signature £699**

December 2016 ★★★★★

They're not cheap but there's no doubt these are talented cans. A retro look, stunning sound and a comfy fit make these worth their price.
Type Closed **Connection** 6.3mm/Lightning in 2017 **Weight** 413g

**Sennheiser HD800S £1399**

June 2016 ★★★★★

If the price invites doubts, rest assured the performance is absolutely worth it, provided your source and amplification are up to the job.
Type Open **Connection** 6.3mm **Weight** 330g

**Sony MDR-Z1R £1650**

April 2017 ★★★★★

The finest closed-back headphones we have heard. Feed them with quality electronics and there is no doubt the Z1Rs will shine.
Type Closed **Connection** 3.5mm/6.3mm **Weight** 385g

**Sennheiser HD820 £1999**

October 2018 ★★★★★

Probably the best-sounding closed-back headphones we've heard. They have lots of detail, plenty of punch and a strong bass performance.
Type Closed **Connection** 4.4mm/6.3mm/XLR4 **Weight** 360g

**Focal Utopia £3499**

June 2017 ★★★★★

With these cans Focal has aimed for the moon and reached it, delivering one of the finest pairs of headphones we've heard.
Type Open **Connection** 6.3mm **Weight** 490g



£200 to £500

£500 to £1000

£1000 and above

Screenshot 20190529
100815 Readly

NEW! B&W's WIRELESS MUSIC SYSTEM

WHAT HI-FI?

MUSIC ON THE MOVE

SUMMER
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SPECIAL!

THE BEST HEADPHONES,
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REVIEWED

Cowon digital music player

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HOW TO...
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What Hi-Fi?

MAY 29 2019
(IMAGE 1 OF 3)

CIRCULATION: **26.3K**



CIRCULATION:

26.3K

TEMPTATIONS

Grado PS1000e

Over-ear headphones

£1900

★★★★★

SOUND ★★★★★

COMFORT ★★★★★

BUILD ★★★★★

FOR

- Exciting, entertaining sound with excellent dynamics
- Timing and detail resolution

AGAINST

- Sound lacks a little refinement
- Fussy about partnering equipment
- Comfort may be an issue

VERDICT

Grado's PS1000es can sound thrilling when partnered with care



"The Grados deliver complex rhythm patterns with the confidence of Einstein explaining general relativity"

Grado makes some of the most distinctive-looking headphones on the market, its products looking like something a World War II radio operator might wear.

The company is rightly proud of this look, and it has served the brand well, being both functional and instantly recognisable. Bar a few embellishments, these PS1000es are no different.

The PS1000es are an open-backed design, of course, because that's what Grado has always favoured. Even the company's brand-new wireless offerings, the GW100s, follow the same principle. That's a surprising engineering choice for such a product when you consider the amount of environmental sound that gets in, let alone the almost unhindered way the music being played leaks out.

There's an upside though - and it's a big one. An open-backed design does away with the enclosure behind the drive unit and, with it, all the resonances and reflections that are part and parcel of such a configuration. The result should be a better, more articulate sound - on paper at least.

The earpieces on the PS1000e use an inner core made of handcrafted, specially cured mahogany, while the outer housing is chrome-plated aluminium. The combination of the two materials results in a well-damped, low-resonance platform for the 50mm drive unit to work from. Grado's engineers have worked hard on this driver, refining the voice coil and diaphragm to improve responsiveness and accuracy.

THOROUGH, THOUGHTFUL DESIGN

It feels as if every aspect of the design has been considered, from the quality of the cable - a long, twelve-core, high-purity crystal copper conductor - to the oversized foam earpads designed to sit around the ear and maintain a degree of spacing between the drive unit and you.

Grado is pretty confident in the fit of these headphones, claiming they are among the most comfortable available; but we're not so sure. The overall weight is fairly hefty (483g without cables) and concentrated on those earpieces.

That, combined with the relatively light inward clamping pressure, means these headphones tend to move around with anything more than steady head movements. Those foam earpads may not suit all heads too. On the plus side, at least the open nature of the design prevents our ears from overheating from extended use, and the headband, though minimally padded, is wide and nicely shaped.

The PS1000es don't exude luxury or quality in the way rivals from the likes of Sennheiser and Beyerdynamic do - that isn't the Grado way. However, they are sturdy, solid and able to withstand years of use without issue. In our experience the foam cushions on Grado headphones tend to deteriorate and need periodic replacement over a few years, but that's no big issue as spares are readily available.

Don't be tempted to skimp on partnering equipment. While Grado provides a 6.3mm to 3.5mm adaptor to allow the PS1000es to be connected to a smartphone, we wouldn't recommend it. While you'll get a decent sound - those headphones are usefully sensitive at just short of 100dB for a milliwatt signal - you really won't get a sense of just how good these Grados are.

To do that you'll need a high-quality source. Our laptop running Audirvana Plus software and filled with good-quality CD-spec and hi-res recordings is a fair start - though switch to a dedicated high-end source, such as our reference Naim NDS/555PS music streamer, and the improvement is obvious.

We use Chord's excellent Hugo TT2 DAC/headphone amp for most of the test with a standard Hugo 2 pitching in on occasion. These headphones are frighteningly transparent, so any lack of quality in the recording, source or amplification is easily heard.

KEEP REFINED COMPANY

If that transparency observation gives the impression that these Grados aren't particularly forgiving, they're not. They can easily sound harsh and aggressive if provoked by shortcomings further up the chain, and it's a good idea to partner them with refined kit. Once you do this, and listen to well-produced recordings, the PS1000es start to shine.

They're impressively dramatic, revealing both low- and high-level changes in intensity with ease. Play Stravinsky's *The Rite Of Spring* and these headphones come to life, delivering the recording's wide-ranging dynamics and often ferocious sense of attack brilliantly. There's just so much detail and it's all organised with composure and stability.

We're also taken with the sheer responsiveness of these Grados; rarely do we come across headphones that sound so fast and agile, ready to respond to the slightest change in input with such determination.

Tonally they're a little forward in the midrange and upper frequencies, and lack a little in terms of outright refinement in these areas when compared with the best of their rivals. This is part of the reason they're so fussy about the quality of signal, but it also gives them an exciting and upfront balance that makes them so entertaining.

That feeling is reinforced when we play Neneh Cherry's *Broken Politics*. The Grados render the spaciouly layered electronic production superbly and deliver the album's complex rhythm patterns with the confidence of Einstein explaining his theory of general relativity.

A MASTER OF MANY TRADES

We're impressed by the excellent detail resolution, the way the Grados render instrumental textures and how they keep a firm grip on multiple instrumental strands without losing track of the music as a whole. Cherry's voice comes through with subtlety and passion, and just enough natural warmth and body to convince. Add wonderfully articulate bass that makes up for what it lacks in outright authority with grip and definition, and you have a pair of headphones to savour.

The PS1000es aren't perfect, but in their areas of strengths they are mighty difficult to better. If you place excitement above refinement and entertainment over analysis, they're a superb buy.

CIRCULATION:

26.3K

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HEADPHONES > REVIEW

Grado GW100 Wireless Headphones Review: Rich Sound in a Retro Shell

by ALEX BRACETTI & MARC CHACKSFIELD Mar 24, 2019, 6:00 AM



GRADO GW100 WIRELESS HEADPHONES



EDITOR'S CHOICE
tom's guide

THE GOOD

- Spacious and well-balanced sound
- Clean, minimalist design
- Comfortable fit
- Solid frequency range
- Responsive controls
- Digital assistant support

THE BAD

- Extensive noise leakage
- Mediocre battery life
- Poor call quality

VERDICT

Audio purists who want rich sound and reliable comfort in a no-frills package should seek out the Grado GW100.

4.5/5

SUPERIOR



\$249 Amazon

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: 36.2M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: 67K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: 87



28



1

Grado Labs isn't a name that rings bells in casual-listening circles, but for engineers, musicians and hipsters, it's a sound staple. The 65-year-old, family-run company has been responsible for some of the coolest, retro-style headphones on the market. Grado's commitment to excellent sound quality



the coolest, retro-style headphones on the market. Grado's commitment to excellent sound quality has also been well-documented; many of their wired headphones have resonated with both critics and sound experts.

Now, the Brooklyn-based brand has its sights set on the wireless space. Sharing a design similar to its corded counterparts, the GW100 has emerged as a worthy, Bluetooth-enabled alternative that's sonically built to compete against your favorite sub-luxury and high-end headphones.

Design

Grado prides itself on manufacturing headphones using traditional practices, which is evident in the look of the GW100. Rather than snapping multiple pieces together like most current headphone makers do, the company selects audio-friendly components and blends them to establish a quality build that doesn't compromise sound.



The GW100 comes in black and is made from a mix of solid materials, including stainless steel, mylar, neodymium magnets, plastic and leatherette. Style-wise, the headphones basically are a wireless replica of the brand's popular [Prestige series](#), but with subtle improvements in detailing. All labeling is brushed on rather than engraved. The headband is padded up, while the ear cups are more reserved, swiveling halfway instead of circling around entirely.

Relying on such lightweight elements has its advantages and drawbacks. On the plus side, the headphones are slender and convenient for travel, and make for a conservative fashion piece. The casing around the ear cups feels solid, but scratches easily and won't survive hard falls onto concrete. Tossing the headphones into your backpack might also put the headband at risk of breaking.

The packaging is arguably the flashiest thing about these headphones; they come in an all-white box with black lettering and the interior swaps the color scheme. A protective foam silhouette secures the headphones. Judging by the chic presentation, I had high hopes for a slender carry case, but was

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MAR 24 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **36.2M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **67K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **87**



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met with only an auxiliary cable and a micro-USB cable.

Comfort and Fit

At 6 ounces, the GW100 is one of the comfiest, most portable-friendly models in its class. You'll be able to sport these for hours without feeling fatigued.



Breathability is a high point of the headphones, as the plush headband offers proper cushioning to relieve the scalp of unwanted pressure. The unit rests gently atop the head and feels comfier than the Fanstereo Studio43. The foam ear pads are far from sexy, have a scratchy feel to them, and attract lots of debris, yet they're still cozy and provide ventilation for perspiring ears.



Tom's Guide

MAR 24 2019

(IMAGE 3 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **36.2M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **67K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **87**



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The key to achieving a pleasant fit is playing with the metal extenders. Setting the proper length will mold the headphones perfectly to your dome. Misaligning either side causes slippage, and you don't want these headphones falling off your head. The extenders do stretch fairly wide and can accommodate bigger heads, if necessary.

Controls and Setup

Very few companies do multi-functional controls right – Grado is one of the exceptions. The GW100 makes call management and media playback practical by relegating all commands to a three-button scheme that most tech-illiterates can master in seconds.

MORE: [Best Headphone Deals in March](#)

Pressing down the power button turns the device on and off, while holding it for 5 seconds initiates pairing mode. Tapping it once will play/pause music or answer/end calls. The plus and minus buttons work similarly, controlling volume (single tap) and tracking navigation (long press), respectively. Each button is very tactile and registers commands with the slightest tap. On the left ear cup are the audio jack and charging port with protective flap.



Connecting the headphones is common practice: Enable pairing mode, turn on the Bluetooth on your laptop or smartphone, enter the Pair New Device menu, and choose Grado GW1000 from the available devices list.

Audio Performance

While I've tested numerous other headphones, I've never tested a Grado headphone; the GW100 makes me wish I had done so sooner. The units boasts a sound profile that resembles the design: clean and neutral. Bass, midrange and treble are well-represented, and vocals are prominent.

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MAR 24 2019

(IMAGE 4 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **36.2M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **67K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **87**



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Grado integrated the same drivers used in its wired headphones, which are engineered to produce a "broad soundstage free from colorations." I felt this most on live jazz recordings. John Coltrane's "Live at Birdland" album placed me front and center as the musician serenaded my ears with bright, lifelike performances. The lower-mids and highs were sharp, allowing me to take in the instrumental details of each record, from the snares to the hi-hats.

Pushing the bass levels up a notch, I jumped into Curtis Mayfield's "(Don't Worry) If There's a Hell Below We're All Going to Go" and became entranced by the record's compelling lows. Reverberations were powerful, giving Mayfield's monologue an echo effect that remained in the background until the full-on beat dropped. The GW100 did such a great job reproducing the song's distorted bass line that I pitted them against the [Sony WH-1000XM3](#), and was surprised by how much clearer the production sounded on Grado's cans.



Tom's Guide

MAR 24 2019

(IMAGE 5 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **36.2M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **67K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **87**



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Not all bass-heavy content packs a skull-rattling punch on these headphones. The beat on DMX's "Who We Be" sounded more dynamic and hit harder on the WH-1000XM3; it was milder on the GW100. Rock records fared similarly, particularly ones with dominant guitar riffs and layered drums like Green Day's "Basket Case." Billie Joe Armstrong's vocals were deflated and lacked the fiery delivery one comes to expect from the front man.

Plugging in the aux cable did increase sharpness and the volume by about 30 percent. It's clutch for listening to low-res audio files; granted, the boost in loudness may be excessive for listeners with sensitive hearing. You'll want to keep the volume at the halfway point, which is like having the sound at max when in wireless mode.

Noise Neutralization

The GW100's open-back headphone presents challenges. While it helps broaden the sound space, the tradeoffs are that it directs ambient noise into the ear cups and the audio leaks out in the process. Listening to music at mid-volume drew stares on the train, as young commuters scoffed at my selection of old-school hip-hop. Dropping the volume down a notch let me eavesdrop on conversations, but also pulled me away from the music. Having the TV on in the background was also distracting, especially when listening to podcasts.

Battery Life

The GW100 has a built-in, 320mAh battery that's good for up to 15 hours of playback. This sounds paltry compared with higher-priced, on-ear units like the Solo3 Wireless (40 hours), but it's on a par with others like the Bose SoundLink On-Ear Bluetooth Headphones (15 hours). Charging time is estimated at 2 hours.

MORE: [Best Wireless Headphones Available Right Now](#)

Having the headphones fully charged out of the box definitely earned Grado brownie points. I was able to rock out to my playlists for 6 hours daily, which translated to about 2.5 days, before recharging. That's a day shorter than I had hoped for. As expected, listening at high volumes and wireless calling did drain the battery faster. But I was disappointed to learn there is no sleep function to preserve juice when the headphones are inactive, so I had to choose between disabling Bluetooth mode or powering them off.

Voice Assistant Support

Grado doesn't advertise it, but the GW100 supports both Google Assistant and Siri to perform common tasks via voice commands. I stumbled upon this function when pressing the power button twice by mistake, which enabled the feature. The built-in mic picked up vocals extremely well; I jokingly whispered requests and was met with speedy responses.

Call Quality and Connectivity

Just because you can, doesn't mean you should. Conversations on the GW100 sounded low and

Tom's Guide

MAR 24 2019

(IMAGE 6 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **36.2M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **67K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **87**



28



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Just because you can, doesn't mean you should. Conversations on the GW100 sounded low and muffled on both ends. The background interference and lack of clarity were noticeable. My girlfriend described the audio as "tinny." Raising the volume to max level made her voice audible, but only when I took calls in silent settings.



Grado opted for Bluetooth 4.2 with aptX instead of Bluetooth 5.0, which isn't a deal-breaker. Surprisingly, the connection on the GW100 was stronger than on most earphones that run the latest Bluetooth protocol. The cans carry a range of up to 30 feet, which seemed accurate during my testing. I roamed my apartment from room to room and enjoyed stereo-like sound without any dropout. Pairing is limited to only one device at a time, although switching from my phone to my laptop (and vice versa) was instant.

Bottom Line

From the phenomenal sound to the nostalgic design, the Grado GW100 is a love letter to the elite headphones of the 80s and 90s, only in wireless form. These cans don't have the flash of Beats nor the premium aesthetics of Bose, but Grado's throwback approach to design gives the GW100 a retro-chic that's perfect for modern times.

I'm impressed by how well these headphones deliver clear audio across different frequencies, outperforming most on-ear models in its price range, while holding their own against sonic juggernauts like the [WH1000XM3](#). Comfort and responsive controls are two other strong areas that showcase the headphones' stable performance.

Hip-hop and rock lovers wanting more oomph on the bass end might want to consider Bose or Sony devices. But anyone who wants traditional-style headphones powered by dynamic drivers and spacious sound can save themselves some cash and spend less on the GWk100.

Credit: Regan Coule/Tom's Guide

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(IMAGE 7 OF 9)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **36.2M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **67K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **87**



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1





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(IMAGE 9 OF 9)

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(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **67K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **87**



28



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An executive toy that tracks the markets

My award for laziest technology cliché goes to “bells and whistles”. But a worthy runner-up, and a favourite of my old dad, is “weird and wonderful”. Yet, as my most esteemed university tutor used to say, “There’s nothing wrong with a cliché used correctly.” I was thinking of his words as I set up this product from Portland, Oregon, and realised it is genuinely weird and wonderful. Which is doubtless why its creator, Steve August, a several-times-round-the-block tech CEO, CMO and chief innovation officer, has called his digital art company August & Wonder. Mr August set out to make his August & Wonder wonder “combine the feel of an old-world instrument with Internet of Things technology”, and so it does. His Market Series A kinetic sculpture would be a jaw-dropping adornment to any big financial honcho’s desk, as well as a novel way of reminding him or her how the markets are faring.

Made of – nay, fashioned from – Papua New Guinea rosewood, zinc, brass and copper, the Market Series A is an app-connected



seesaw – a looming bear on one side, a rampant bull on the other – that connects by WiFi and indicates changes in 11 market indices and five cryptocurrencies with claimed accuracy of up to 0.1 per cent. A few technical points. The device is only compatible with 2.4Ghz WiFi networks. It won't work on

corporate networks using WPA2 Enterprise authentication or which require a username and password. So if your office doesn't have an unsecured guest network, you'll need to tether to your phone or use a cloud service like BT Openzone. Also, August prefers to add UK or EU VAT at the Oregon end to avoid irritating pay-the-VAT-or-we-won't-deliver standoffs with couriers. August & Wonder Market Series A, \$1,100 (plus shipping and UK VAT), from augustwonder.com.

CIRCULATION:

95.8K

technopolis

Cruise the highways and rat runs of Gizmo City with **Jonathan Margolis**, the grand wizard of gadgetology

FOR MORE OF JONATHAN'S REVIEWS, PLUS VIDEO BULLETINS, CLICK TECHNOLOGY ON HOWTOSPENDIT.COM

A very smart smoke alarm with longevity to match

Just as the last thing you assume when you hear a car or burglar alarm is that a car is being stolen or a home robbed, a squeaking smoke alarm almost inevitably means someone has burned the toast – or the battery in the alarm needs replacing. But this, from the ever-clever Netatmo, is the most comprehensively smart smoke alarm I have seen. Before you even get into its connected capabilities, *nota bene* its main advantage: up to 10 years of battery life. If you install a Netatmo Smart Smoke Alarm now, your iPhone 20-ish will be sending you a notification in 2029 that it's had enough. If, in the meanwhile, you do burn the toast and the 85-decibel alarm sounds, don't worry about getting up on a chair to fan smoke away from it – the alarm can be muted from its phone app. Your phone will also tell you if it has detected smoke and in which room (assuming you have alarms in different parts of the house), even if you're thousands of miles away. And if, like me, you get paranoid if you've not heard from your smoke alarm while you are away, you can even test from afar that it's working order.

Netatmo Smart Smoke Alarm, £90, from netatmo.com.



PHOTOGRAPHS: HIGH FIDELITY FALL

No-frills headphones that are all about the performance

As I have to say frequently, I listen to a lot of headphones, and although I like many of them, to find something that really stands out is quite rare. Few have stood out quite as much as this pair from Grado, an old family firm in Brooklyn, NY. Grado makes some of the world's best high-end headphones, which can cost upwards of £1,000. The new GW100s, its first Bluetooth wireless phones, are priced at £200 but have the quality of something much, much more expensive. I was quite shocked when I first heard them. They are loud as heck, even when fed by nothing more than an iPhone, and my word, they sound deep and detailed and sweet.

The GW100s, in typical Grado style, contain no fancy electronics beyond the aptX Bluetooth – so no noise-cancelling or sensing when they're on your head or not. And they are open-backed and noisy to others, so not for use in public. They are light on the head, at around 170g by my measurement, and claim to be able to play for 15 hours at 50 per cent volume, which is impressive as battery life goes. One caveat: Grado's finishes can be iffy. Even its top models have some cheap, plastic fittings. Try not to be put off. They are remarkable.

Grado GW100, £200, from grado.co.uk.

@thefuturecitic



The perfect mini deputy to a day-to-day smartphone

As smartphones get more tombstone-like, miniature models, such as those I have previously featured by the Chinese maker Unihertz, have become a mini trend, especially for summer, when you want to be in touch but not carry a slab around in your shorts or on the beach or on the poop deck of your boat when you're working remotely. This, from Palm (the same trading name as the company behind the defunct PalmPilot, now under entirely new ownership), is about the size of a credit card and just over half the thickness of the Unihertz Jelly Pro, but still just big enough to use – even with my gorilla hands. Indeed, the Palm actually fits in one palm – which, of course, the PalmPilot and the few phones the original firm made in its death throes did not.

The Palm is a slick, cultured take on the micro-phone trend, and even has a decent 12-megapixel rear camera and an eight-megapixel front one. The thing that sets it apart from its competitors, however, is that later this year, it will also be able to share the same Vodafone number as your primary phone, thus fully trumping rival offerings and giving you a real choice to carry either your big phone or its deputy, depending on the occasion.

The Palm runs Android's the Oreo 8.1 version, which is not quite like on a Samsung or Google Pixel phone, but still able to run apps from the Google Play Store.

Palm Phone, £350 pay as you go or from £31 a month, from shop.vodafone.co.uk.





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Andris Nelsons
The conductor's blistering Shostakovich *Leningrad*

Living for kicks
How an Offenbach opera made the can-can famous

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Catrin Finch
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BBC Music

MAY 15 2019
(IMAGE 1 OF 2)

CIRCULATION:

30K



Audio choice

BBC Music

MAY 15 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 2)

Each issue our audio expert *Chris Haslam* tests the best products on the market

THIS MONTH: OVER-EAR HEADPHONES



BEST FOR VALUE AKG K245 £129

Big, light (295g) and comfortable, these semi open-backed headphones have a wonderfully spacious sound with very little colouring added to your music. Given how most headphones at this price tend to sound – bass heavy and pop oriented – the huge 50mm drivers are positively nuanced, letting you hear more of the music. The K245s fold down and, as they are not totally open-backed, you can use them in the office without distracting your colleagues. soundtech.co.uk



Make the Grado: headphones that provide value

BEST FOR ALL GENRES Grado SR 325es £269

While the distinctive look may appeal more to fans of Mingus than Mozart, these open-backed headphones sound sensational whatever you play through them, and will transform your home listening. Switching between jazz, pop and both full-orchestra and solo performances, I loved how rhythmical everything sounded, with the low frequencies remaining controlled and the treble never sounding shrill. You can spend three times as much without finding such an enjoyable experience. gradolabs.com



Gold standard: the superb Focal Stellias

BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE BEST BUY BEST QUALITY Focal Stellia £2,795

The majority of high-end headphones are designed to be used solely with luxury hi-fi components and certainly never taking on the bus. But French brand Focal is shaking things up a little bit with Stellia, an exquisitely designed, eye-wateringly expensive pair of closed-back headphones that can be powered by the finest headphone amplifiers and DACs, or plugged into a portable music player or smartphone.

Unsurprisingly, when I listened to hi-res recordings from my MacBook using the outstanding Audiolab M-DAC headphone amp, the Stellia blew my socks off. They are the most impressive pair of closed-back headphones I've had the pleasure of using. The interplay between strings and piano on the Artemis Quartet and Elisabeth Leonskaja's recording of Shostakovich's Piano Quintet (Warner Classics) left me open-mouthed. It's a privilege to hear music like this.

But what happens when you remove them from perfect listening conditions? Thanks to the extra gap between the ultra-soft ear cups and 40mm Beryllium drivers, the space and detail afforded means even a compressed MP3 sounds better than it ought to. focal.com

HEADPHONES: A QUICK GUIDE

Open or closed back? 'Open-backed' headphones give music room to breathe, which makes them ideal for live concerts where the scale of the performance can be appreciated. 'Closed-back' models have a more intimate feel and don't 'leak' as much.

Frequency Typically 20 – 20,000Hz represents the range of audio frequencies the headphones can reproduce, with the lowest figure being the bass, and the highest the treble. It's not an indicator of quality, but if you like your bass to rumble a bit more, look for the lowest Hz.

Impedance Measured in ohms, impedance is a useful signifier of sound quality. Below 32 ohms you'll have no issues playing from a phone, but high-quality models tend to have higher impedance (above 25 ohms) and require more power to get the best from them, so are better used with a headphone amp.

CIRCULATION:

30K

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...and our insider city guide to Hamburg

TOTAL
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73
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BA Business Life

MAY 2 2019
(IMAGE 1 OF 2)

CIRCULATION:

95.8K



GRADO GW100 WIRELESS HEADPHONES

An old family firm based in Brooklyn, Grado is one of the most beloved headphone brands for hifi fans. Many of its handbuilt models come with four-figure price tags. Its new GW100, however, sells for just £200 and brings Grado quality at a more affordable price. It also has apt-X Bluetooth, making it Grado's first wireless product. Be aware, though, that this is an open-back headphone. So while it's glorious to listen to, the sound isolation is almost non-existent, so perhaps not one for in-flight use. It's also unusually light and offers great battery life, although the build quality, while perfectly sturdy, doesn't look notably sleek. gradolabs.com



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3

XIAOMI MI 9 SMARTPHONE

China's Xiaomi has grown in just nine years from startup to one of the world's biggest smartphone companies. Its new Mi 9 has three cameras, the main one using a huge 48-megapixel 1/2-inch sensor. There's also a 16-megapixel ultra-wide-angle camera and a 12-megapixel telephoto lens. The ultra-wide is especially interesting as it means you can often get, say, a whole building into a photo without needing to cross a road to get further back. An unusual and well-made smartphone and better priced than many Android competitors. From £385. mi.com



MAY 2 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 2)

CIRCULATION:

95.8K

BRIEFING P14
The lucrative global trade in stolen art



PROFILE P32
Creating Pinterest: Silicon Valley's silent unicorn



PLUS
The best hi-fi audio gadgets
TOYS P36



MoneyWeek

APR 19 2019

(IMAGE 1 OF 2)

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CIRCULATION:

37.9K



Sound investments for the future

“Old-school” vinyl co-exists happily with the latest Bluetooth wireless technology in the world of hi-fi audio

Jimi Hendrix wasn't overly concerned about living forever. “When I die, just keep playing the records,” the legendary guitarist once said. And we do just that, even though the way in which we choose to receive the music we want to listen to is evolving at a faster rate than ever. What would Thomas Edison, who invented the

first phonograph in 1887, have made of the cassette or compact disc, let alone the notion that people's music “collection” might not actually exist in physical form at all, but as a series of downloaded computer files, or be accessed by “streaming” the information invisibly from the internet? According

to research and consulting service Futuresource, the global home-audio market was worth more than \$13bn in 2017. So turntables, headphones and loudspeakers – wired or wireless – are going to be with us for a long time to come. Below, Mick Sharp looks at some of the latest audio offerings.

If you don't mind being “tied” to a pair of traditional “wired” headphones, one brand you might not have heard of is Grado. They are hand-built in Brooklyn, New York, by a three-generations-old family business that prides itself on “unwavering dedication”, in which “sound will always be our top priority”. The **Grado SR325e** “blew the socks off” the trade press: “If you're serious about sound quality and they fit your budget, what are you waiting for?” asks What Hi-Fi, awarding them its best on-ear headphones £100-£400 award for 2018. £269, sevenoakssoundandvision.co.uk

Bose is used to creating a big sound out of small speakers, and it has done it again with the seemingly ubiquitous **QuietComfort 35 II headphones**. You'll see plenty of these as you stroll around the city centre, which tells you something – they're damned good. “These Bose beauties are the headphones to beat and they win a well-deserved best buy award,” says Jonathan Bray on Expertreviews.co.uk The noise cancelling is second-to-none and they can also be used with Google voice assistant. £289, hifix.co.uk

One of the great advantages of the **Cambridge Audio Yoyo (M)** is that these wireless speakers come as a pair, giving the kind of stereo separation one-box alternatives can't compete with. They are “a reminder of why two speakers are so much better than one”, says Andrew Williams of Techradar.com. Easy to “pair” with a phone, computer or streamer, the Yoyos come clothed in an attractive worsted wool weave from Yorkshire's Marton Mills. They are totally portable and a full charge will give you 24 hours of music, wherever you decide to use them. £249, richersounds.com



CIRCULATION:

37.9K

HEADPHONES TO SUIT YOUR LIFESTYLE

On-ear, over-ear or in-ear? Wired, wireless or truly wireless? We help you to choose the headphones that will best fit your lifestyle - and your ears

WHAT'S ON TEST?

Nine of the best headphones on the market. See the table on p79 and find all test results at which.co.uk/headphones

Most of us have a pair of headphones, but whether they're any good is a different story. This is especially true if you make do with the ones that came free with your phone. These tend to be simple in-ear headphones that don't sound amazing or feel

particularly comfortable. If you've never invested in a pair of good-quality headphones, you don't know what you're missing.

Finding the best set for you depends on matching the style and features to your daily activities. But with so many types available, even choosing the right pair can give you a headache - so knowing the difference between them really helps.

On-ear and over-ear sets are similar, and can be wired or wireless. The on-ear type are lighter, but can be uncomfortable if you're listening for long periods because they put pressure on the outer ear. Over-ear headphones cover your whole

ear and tend to be better at blocking out external sound and keeping sound leakage to a minimum, but they can be bulky.

In-ear headphones, in contrast, are small, portable and often wired. They're generally quite cheap, so a popular choice. 'Truly wireless' headphones are springing up more, too (see opposite for more on this).

In this article we've rounded up the very best headphones for using at home, while travelling and when staying active, picking out those that produce the most impressive sound. Upgrading doesn't have to cost a fortune, either - we've found some Best Buys for as little as £20.

CIRCULATION:

2M

Best for: home use

If you normally use your headphones at home, you'll want to focus on those with the best sound quality and comfort. Their ability to cancel outside noise, or how well they prevent sound leaking out, isn't as important.

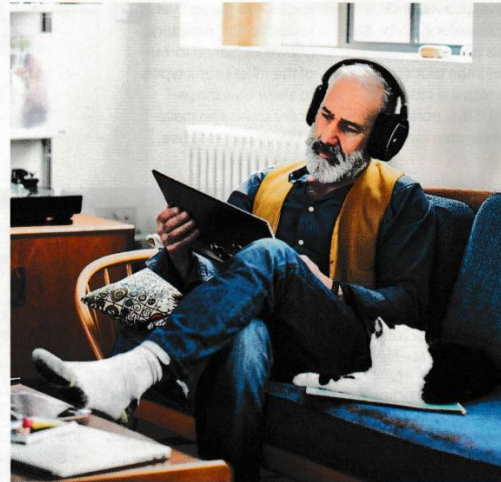
Open-backed headphones often produce clear, natural sound. They allow some outside noise to mix with the audio, so you'll get an experience similar to listening via speakers.

Although this means people can hear more of what you're listening to, making them best for use in the house, they're a great alternative to having your speakers blaring when there are others in the next room.

If you find yourself turning your TV up to maximum volume but still can't make out what's being said, you should consider headphones specifically designed for your TV.

These come with a base station that connects to your TV or Blu-ray player - great if your TV doesn't support Bluetooth or you don't want to fuss around setting up a wireless connection.

They will also charge whenever you put them back on the dock. However, although the headphones are wireless, they'll only work within range of the base station - those with a shorter range might only work one room away.



BEST BUY

Sennheiser RS 175 81%
STORE & ONLINE £175

These indoor headphones are designed for your TV, with brilliant sound. They've got a long range of 100 metres (less if there's a wall in the way), so you can feel confident moving a few rooms away from the base station. They're expensive and bulky, though.



BEST BUY

Grado GW100 70%
STORE & ONLINE £180

The retro Grado GW100 headphones produce a warm, natural sound. We found the Bluetooth connection really easy to set up. They have a detachable cable, so you can also use them plugged in. But some of our listening panel found them a bit uncomfortable.

Which?

April 2019
which.co.uk

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our test lab offers its definitive verdict



Which? magazine

MAR 22 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 2)

CIRCULATION:

2M

STARScream



Give The Eardrums Some!

Win! A set of Grado GS1000e 'Statement' mahogany headphones.

SINCE 1953, three generations of the Grado family firm have hand-built headphones and phono cartridges at their Brooklyn headquarters. The Grado GS1000e 'Statement' is the flagship of the range. The key to their extraordinary performance comes from their handcrafted, oversized mahogany earpieces; prepared with an intricate curing process which optimises the internal tonal quality and

allows for a superior spatial listening experience, when paired with an upgraded 50mm dynamic transducer and class-leading 12 conductor cable design, out-of-sight sonic performance is assured!

Thrillingly, we have a pair to give away. Worth £1,099.95, they also come engraved, in this case with the legend 'MOJO 2019'. What are you waiting for? Get Fred-In-A-Babylon's devilish crossword completed and send it to Give The Eardrums Some!, MOJO, Academic House, 24-28 Oval Road, London NW1 7DT. Please include your home address, email and phone number.

Closing date for entries is **May 2**. For the rules of the quiz, see www.mojo4music.com

For more info go to: grado.co.uk

ANSWERS

MOJO 304

Across: 1 Hank Williams, 7 Sad, 9 Rotary Connection, 10 Tiny Tim, 12 Glorious Fool, 17 David Gedge, 19 These Days, 20 Inch, 21 Nils Lofgren, 22 Elton, 23 Dial, 25 Reedy, 26/29 Jerome Kern, 30 Eliza, 31 One, 32 Infected, 33 Inez, 34 Man, 35 Get On, 37 Listen To Me, 40 Stay, 41 Rutles, 42 Hey Joe, 43 Ramones, 46 E.S.P., 48 Kim Wilde, 50 Essex, 51 Alley Oop, 52 Otis Rush, 53 Do! Do!, 54 Ryan, 57 Sake, 58 Irene Cara, 59 Gee, 60 Epic.

Down: 1 Harry Nilsson, 2 Nat King Cole, 3/15 Warm Leatherette, 4 Lucille, 5 Ian Brown, 6 Meet On The Ledge, 7 Stiff, 8 Dando, 11 Imagine, 13 Sweet Little Sixteen, 14 Ocean Rain, 16 Rosalyn, 18 Dog Man Star, 20 Ind, 24 Intro, 26 Jim Croce, 27 Ronettes, 28 Merle, 36 Kyrie, 38 Iss, 39 Thom Yorke, 40 Solid Rock, 44 Axl Rose, 45 Evora, 46 Exodus, 47 Paging, 49 Desire, 55 Yep, 56 Nic.

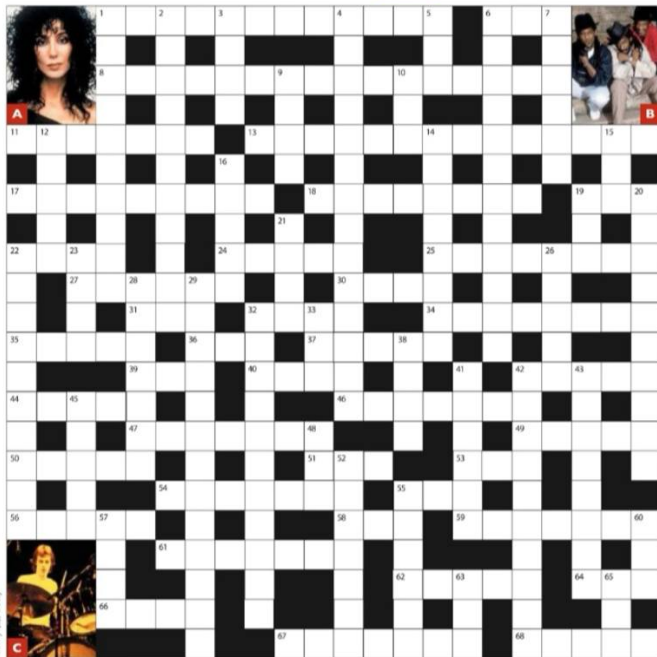
Winner: Mike Richmond of York wins a prime selection of books from Genesis Publications.

ACROSS

- 1 He played organ on Voodoo Chile (5,7)
- 6 Initially a Crosby, Stills and Nash LP (3)
- 8 This Rod Stewart album spawned You Wear It Well (5,1,4,6)
- 11 Jake Bugg's singular album (2,2,3)
- 13 Giving up, like a David Gates or a Wet Wet Wet single (5,9)
- 17 The first Stones' album to feature Ronnie Wood as a full member (4,5)
- 18 Randy Crawford's Emotions in '86 (8)
- 19 Was Michael Jackson its king? (3)
- 22 Gene and Dean's nut-rockers (4)
- 24 *The Friends Of Mr -----* (Jon And Vangelis album) (5)
- 25 One's hits transfer to a Beastie Boys' success (4,2,2)
- 27 *The Louder I Call The Faster It Runs* was their 2018 album (3,3)
- 30 Label launched by Sly And Robbie (4)
- 31 First Marvin Gaye album to hit the US Top 40 (3)
- 32 ---- And The Whale (4)
- 34 Brian Eno's 12th album (5,3)
- 35 Cozy Powell did it with the Devil (5)
- 36 This Tommy had a Dizzy Number 1 (3)
- 37 ---- *There*, a Wilco album (5)
- 39 ---- *Speedwagon* (3)
- 40 See photo clue A (4)
- 42 Music to open a piece of music (5)
- 44 Special AKA guest on *The Boiler* in '82 (5)
- 46 Singer once wed to Stevie Wonder (7)
- 47/41 *Macca's 007 Theme* (4,3,3,3)
- 49 Could be Waterson, or Winstone (5)
- 50 See photo clue B (5)
- 51 Bruce announced he was born here (3)
- 53 It's a subgenre of reggae (3)
- 54 Dublin blues-rock band once fronted by Brush Shields (4,3)
- 55 Shadows hit hidden amid Half Man Half Biscuit (3)
- 56 Derek & The Dominos' classic single (5)
- 58 Coming for Three Dog Night in '69 (3)
- 59 Madonna's rude record (7)
- 61 It's k.d. lang's most successful LP (7)
- 62 Sylvian, Coverdale, Lee Roth etc (5)
- 64 ---- Dad, Cliff Jones's band (3)
- 66 The beach for Martha & The Muffins (4)
- 67 Love, linked with Phil Spector (7)
- 68 Remler, jazz guitarist supreme (5)

DOWN

- 1 Voice of Fairport and Fotheringay (5,5)
- 2 He Fooled Around And Fell In Love in 1976 (5,6)
- 3 Scroggs, Hines, Okin or Brutus (4)
- 4 Their last LP was *Nite Flights* in '78 (6,8)
- 5 This US heavy metal band's LPs include *Killing The Dragon and Dream Evil* (3)
- 6 Neil Diamond's repetitive 1966 hit (6,6)
- 7 Paolo the blue-eyed soul Scot (6)
- 9 Delta ---- (Helen Reddy) (4)
- 10 Could be Robinson, or Murphy (3)
- 12 Alicia Keys US chart-topper (2,3)
- 14 It was a Muse single in 2009 (8)
- 15 Self-importance *a la* Elton John (3)
- 16 Roberta who won a Grammy with a song penned by 23 down (5)
- 19 Uncle ---- (Bill Monroe) (3)
- 20 See photo clue C (4,6)
- 21 "September '77, Port Elizabeth, weather fine" (Peter Gabriel) (4)
- 22 "Today is gonna be the day" (Oasis) (10)
- 23 Folk legend MacColl (4)
- 26 *Pacific ----- Blue* (Dennis Wilson LP) (5)
- 28 A gem like Amsterdam's Caro (7)
- 29/57 A Mindbenders hit later covered by Phil Collins (1,5,4,2,4)
- 32 A close thing devised by Mark Knopfler and Chet Atkins (4,3,4)
- 33 Laboriel Jr, session drummer with Sting, Eric Clapton etc. (3)
- 38 Laura, wrote *Stoned Soul Picnic* (4)
- 41 See 47 Across
- 42 The Lightning Seeds' mainman (3,7)
- 43 ----- Muses, a band once fronted by Tanya Donnelly and Kristin Hersh (8)
- 45 John linked with Wild Willy Barrett (5)
- 48 Simon & Garfunkel for instance (3)
- 52 ----- Than You (Ricky Nelson) (7)
- 55 AKA the violin (6)
- 57 See 29
- 60 May turns around for Winehouse (3)
- 63 Take Good Care Of My Baby, this Bobby Implored (3)
- 65 This or nothing said the Small Faces (3)



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(IMAGE 2 OF 2)



HOMWORK

BY CLAUDIA BAILLIE



Mu-so Special Edition speaker by Naim, £895, at johnlewis.com



Alarm clock coffee machine, £345 (banisieun.com)

MEOS earphones, £139, masterdynamic.co.uk



Beosound Edge wireless speaker, £2,900 (bang-olufsen.com)



GS1000e headphones, £1,099 (grado.co.uk)



Smart Doorbell by Ome, £159, at amazon.co.uk

SMART buys

Gone are the days when embracing tech meant black boxes, white plastic and a tangle of cables. These design-led products are crafted as carefully as any furniture using elegant materials and wireless innovations to blend seamlessly with the rest of your home. Clever digital versions of everyday items (a mug that keeps your drink at the same temperature, anyone?) plus sleek small appliances and neat wearables will help improve mind and body, too.



Bild 5 OLED TV, from £2,990 (loewe.tv)



The Velvetiser hot chocolate maker, £99.99 (hotchocolat.com)



American Acoustasonic Telecaster hybrid guitar, £1,799 (shop.fender.com)



Smart indoor security camera, £199.99 (shop.net.atmo.com)



Meditation headband (gives feedback on brain activity, movement, breathing and heart rate), £239 (choosemuse.com)



Manual belt drive turntable, £299 (eu.audio-technica.com)



R5 wireless hi-fi music system, £999, nuarkaudio.com



Learning thermostat, from £219 (nest.com)



C-Lux compact digital camera, £875 (leicastone-uk.co.uk)



Ember temperature control mug, £79.95 (ember.com)



One wireless smart speaker by Hay x Sonos, £229, at sefridges.com



Belt Cable Universal 3-in-1 charging cable, £36.99 (nativeunion.co.uk)



Apple watch desk valet, from £89.99, madebyandren.com



Our interiors expert, Sophie Ashby, shares the best ways to go off the tiles

INSIDE track

Q I'm doing up my kitchen but keep hearing subway tiles are over. What's the alternative?

A I love just a simple sheet of brass or steel, you can buy it off the shelf and have it cut to size; if you go for a polished, unsealed finish, it will patinate and age beautifully over time. I think fingerprints, water marks and scratches give it character and make it look even

better. You can pair it with whatever counter top material you like as metal goes with everything.

Smile Plastics creates incredible sheets of material made of waste plastic in different colour combinations and thicknesses. There is one created out of old yoghurt pots called Alba, which has a lovely pale

cream finish with metallic flecks through it and looks just as luxurious as marble, plus it's really durable. (It's in the Casey-Hayford store bathroom on Chiltern Street.) For a slightly more relaxed look I love Tadelakt, which is a polished plaster but is also highly durable. It comes in a huge spectrum of earthy colours and has a real tactile softness to it that looks great paired with timber cabinet fronts.



CIRCULATION:

362K



CIRCULATION:

362K

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: 7.53M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: 22.3K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: 79



1

TRENDING Bristol Hi-Fi Show Hi-Fi deals Best speakers Technics SL-1210 MK7 B&W 606 8K TV

Grado PS1000e review

Headphones that deliver a thrilling, but unforgiving, ride *Tested at £1900 / \$1695*

★★★★★ By What Hi-Fi? 2 days ago [Review](#)



OUR VERDICT

Grado's PS1000es can sound thrilling when partnered with care

+ FOR

- AGAINST

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Exciting and entertaining sound
Excellent dynamics and timing

Sound lacks a little refinement
Fussy about partnering equipment
Comfort may be an issue

Grado PS1000e deals



\$1,695

VIEW

We check over 130 million products every day for the best prices

POWERED BY **WHAT HI-FI?**

Grado makes some of the most distinctive looking headphones on the market, with its products looking like something that might be worn by a World War II radio operator.

The company is rightly proud of this look, and it has served the brand well, being both functional and instantly recognisable. Bar a few embellishments, these PS1000es are no different.

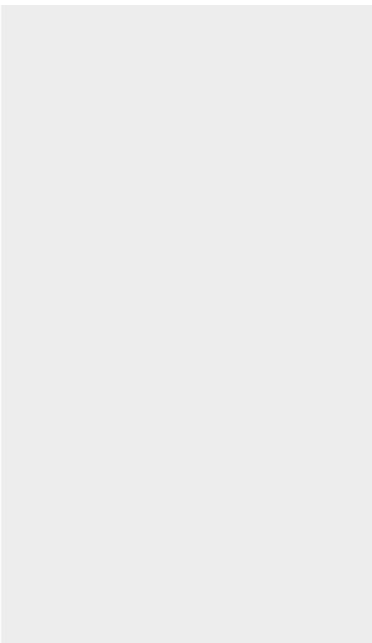
Build



The PS1000es are an open-backed design of course, because that's what Grado has always favoured. Even the company's brand new wireless offerings, the GW100s, follow the same principle. That's a surprising engineering choice for such a product when you consider the amount of environmental sound that gets in, let alone the almost unhindered way the music being played leaks out.

There's an upside though, and it's a big one. An open-backed design does away with the enclosure behind the drive unit and, with it, all the resonances and reflections that are part and parcel of such a configuration. The result, all things considered, should be a better, more articulate sound – on paper at least.

The earpieces on the PS1000es use an



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What Hi Fi

MAR 4 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 6)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

7.53M

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1



The earpieces on the PS1000es use an inner core made of handcrafted, specially cured mahogany, while the outer housing is made of chrome-plated aluminium. The combination of the two materials results in a well-damped, low resonance platform for the new 50mm drive unit to work from.

Grado's engineers have worked hard on this driver, refining the voice coil and diaphragm to improve responsiveness and accuracy.

It feels as if every aspect of the design has been considered, from the quality of the cable – a 12 core, high purity long crystal copper conductor – to the oversized foam earpads designed to sit around the ear and maintain a degree of spacing between the drive unit and you.

Comfort



Grado is pretty confident in the fit of these headphones, claiming they are among the most comfortable available, but we're not so sure. The overall weight is fairly hefty (483g without cables) and concentrated on those hefty earpieces.

Combined with the relatively light inward clamping pressure, the headphones tend to move around with anything less than steady head movements. Those big foam earpads may not suit all heads too. On the plus side, at least the open nature of the design prevents our ears from overheating from extended use and the headband, though minimally padded, is wide and nicely shaped.

The PS1000es don't exude luxury or quality in the way rivals from the likes of Sennheiser and Beyerdynamic do – that isn't the Grado way. However, they are sturdy, solid and able to withstand years of use without issue. In our experience the foam cushions on Grado headphones tend to deteriorate and need periodic

GRADO PS1000E TECH SPECS



Transducer type Dynamic
Operating principle Open air
Frequency response 5 - 50,000Hz
Impedance 32 ohms
Driver matched dB .05 dB

MORE FROM WHAT HI-FI?...



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- 2 Best noise-cancelling headphones 2019: in-ear, on-ear, Bluetooth
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What Hi Fi

MAR 4 2019

(IMAGE 3 OF 6)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **7.53M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **22.3K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **79**



1

the foam cushions on Grado headphones tend to deteriorate and need periodic replacement over a few years, but that's no big issue as spares are readily available.

Sound



Don't be tempted to skimp on partnering equipment. While Grado provides a 6.3mm to 3.5mm adaptor to allow the PS1000es to be connected to a smartphone, we wouldn't recommend it. While you'll get a decent sound – those headphones are usefully sensitive at just short of 100dB for a milliwatt signal – you really won't get a sense of just how good these Grados are.

To do that you'll need a high quality source. Our laptop running Audirvana Plus software and filled with good quality CD spec and hi-res recordings is a fair start, though switch to a dedicated high-end source such as our reference Naim NDS/555PS music streamer and the improvement is obvious.

We use Chord's excellent **Hugo TT2** DAC/headphone amp for most of the test with a standard **Hugo 2** pitching in on occasion. These headphones are frighteningly transparent, so any lack of quality in the recording, source or amplification is easily heard.

If that gives the impression that these Grados aren't particularly forgiving, you'd be right. They can easily sound harsh and aggressive if provoked by shortcomings further up the chain, and it's a good idea to partner them with refined electronics. Once you do this, and listen to well-produced recordings, the PS1000es start to shine.

They're impressively dramatic, revealing both low and high level changes in intensity with ease. Play Stravinsky's *The Rite Of Spring* and these headphones come to life, delivering the recording's wide-ranging dynamics and often ferocious sense of attack brilliantly. There's just so much detail and it's all organised with composure and stability.

What Hi Fi

MAR 4 2019

(IMAGE 4 OF 6)

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What Hi Fi

MAR 4 2019

(IMAGE 5 OF 6)

We're also taken with the sheer responsiveness of these Grados; rarely do we come across headphones that sound so fast and agile, ready to respond to the slightest change in input with such determination.

Tonally they're a little forward in the midrange and upper frequencies, and lack a little in terms of outright refinement in these areas when compared to the best of their rivals. This is part of the reason they're so fussy about the quality of signal, but it also gives them an exciting and upfront balance that makes them so entertaining.

That feeling is reinforced when we play Neneh Cherry's *Broken Politics*. The Grados render the spaciouly layered electronic production superbly and deliver the album's complex rhythm patterns with the confidence of Einstein explaining his theory of general relativity.

We're impressed by the excellent detail resolution, the way the Grados render instrumental textures and how they keep a firm grip on multiple instrumental strands without losing track of the music as a whole. Cherry's voice comes through with subtlety and passion, and just enough in the way of natural warmth and body to convince. Add wonderfully articulate bass that makes up for what it lacks in outright authority in grip and definition, and you have a pair of headphones to savour.

Verdict

The PS1000es aren't perfect, but in their areas of strengths they are mighty difficult to better. If you place excitement above refinement and entertainment over analysis, they're a superb buy.

SCORES

- Sound 4
- Comfort 4
- Build 4

MORE:

See all our [Grado reviews](#)

[Best headphones 2019](#)

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PRICES - GRADO PS1000E:

Grado PS1000e deals

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The video section features three thumbnails. The top one shows a hand holding a smartphone with a 'video playing' overlay and a date of 15/01/18. The middle one is titled 'AWARDS 2016 Best in-ear headphones under £50, 2016 -...' with a date of 15/01/18. The bottom one is titled 'REVIEW' with a date of 15/01/18.

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Linn Selekt DSM review



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Astell & Kern A&futura SE100 review

Portable music players rarely sound this good *Tested at £1499*

★★★★★ By What Hi-Fi? 2 hours ago [Review](#)



(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **7.86M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **34.2K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **69**

OUR VERDICT

If you have the budget, this portable music player is a no-brainer.

+ FOR

- Hugely capable sound
- Extensive file support
- Bright, punchy screen

- AGAINST

- Sharp edges

Anyone looking for a high-end portable music player may be subliminally swayed by the name of the Astell & Kern A&futura SE100. But a considered assessment would also point you there, for the SE100 is a portable pleasure that deserves to be pocketed.

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At a rather pricey £1499, it sits between the [A&ultima SP1000M](#) (£3299) and *What Hi-Fi?* Award-winning [Kann](#) (£899) in Astell & Kern's hi-res player portfolio, but justifies its position above the latter with a far better performance.

Sound



Playing a range of music genres and file resolutions, the A&futura SE100 comes out on top at every turn. Thanks to its 32-bit, eight-channel ESS Sabre ES9038Pro DAC and its crystal oscillator clock's jitter-reducing efforts, it isn't just a small improvement either – the SE100 sounds miles better than the [Kann](#). That's just as well, considering the £600 premium.

What's most noticeable is its stark openness, which not only expands the presentation's soundstage, but also serves as an invitation for more detail to be heard.

We play Leonard Cohen's *Born In Chains* (16-bit/44.1kHz) and the A&K does justice to the gospel-like production that took Cohen four decades to commit to tape. The melodic organ opener fills the head space with the timbre variation and breathy texture integral to the instrument, while Cohen's vocal growl is startlingly clear and aptly hollow.

Choral backing singers are so clear they can be individually counted, and subtler cymbal taps and piano keys are not only distinct but textured and precisely placed. David Bowie's *I'd Rather Be High* (24-bit/96kHz) is an even more impressive listen. That psychedelic guitar riff has power and drive behind it, while the track's underpinning drums are rhythmically sound.

ASTELL & KERN A&FUTURA SE100



- Storage 128GB
- Hi-res DSD 11.2MHz/PCM 32-bit/184kHz
- Screen 5in HD touchscreen
- Input USB 3.0 Type-C
- Outputs 3.5mm, balanced
- Weight 240g

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whathifi

FEB 22 2019

(IMAGE 2 OF 6)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **7.86M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **34.2K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **69**

STARScream

are rhythmically sound.

Dimensions (hwd) 13 x 7.5 x
1.5cm

Of course, you will need a headphone partner of equally decent calibre to make the most of the SE100's transparency. We use the Grado SR325e (£269), Focal Elegia (£795) and Grado PS1000e (£1900), and even the latter doesn't feel overqualified for the job. In fact, open-back headphones such as these play to the SE100's glorious spaciousness.

We play Tidal over wi-fi, and while a stream of *Jesseye' Lisabeth* by Mercury Rev ft. Phoebe Bridgers sounds understandably compressed compared to the hi-res tracks, we can still put a mental ring around the onslaught of instruments in the elaborate folk collaboration.

Features



Tidal comes pre-loaded in the 'services' section, as do Deezer and Groovers+. Others, such as Amazon Music, Spotify, Qobuz, Pandora and TuneIn radio, can be downloaded and dropped onto the SE100 in the same way you would music tracks.

The SE100 supports native DSD playback up to 11.2MHz and PCM files up to 32-bit/384kHz, and has an impressive 128GB internal storage. As with other A&K players, that storage can be expanded by a microSD card.

Another potential accessory for the SE100 is a fast charger (9V/1.67A), which, plugged into the player's USB Type-C connection, allows the player to fully charge in just two hours. Astell & Kern claims playback of 11 hours from a single charge, based on 16-bit/44kHz FLAC file playback at mid volume with the screen off.

However, dipping into the SE100 over the course of several days, playing largely hi-res files and Tidal streams at higher volumes, and getting to grips with its interface navigation, its battery life proves closer to six hours. Astell & Kern's updated 5in HD touchscreen interface prioritises album artwork, and is bright, crisp and colourful enough to do justice to Radiohead's *Hail To The Thief* cover.

whathifi

FEB 22 2019

(IMAGE 3 OF 6)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **7.86M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **34.2K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **69**

crisp and colourful enough to do justice to Radiohead's *rain to the 11th* cover.

Build



Framing that gorgeously glassy screen is the new architecturally-inclined aluminium body that has been adopted by all A&K players, apart from the older Kann. Those angular lines, the diamond-patterned glass back plate and small volume dial are now familiar parts of A&K's designs. The latter is our favourite physical feature of an A&K player – even if swiping the touchscreen is a quicker method of changing volume.

The SE100 is slightly slanted, allowing it to satisfyingly lean into your hand when held. It should come with a 'handle with care' sign, though. While the cassette-sized, reassuringly hefty player is a work of art, its straight edges and particularly cutting corners can be pretty wince-inducing if (or when) they catch your skin. While a large box of plasters might be cheaper, we'd suggest investing in the £89 dedicated leather case (available in black, navy and red) to save yourself the affliction.

Verdict



The SE100 represents a serious evolution of Astell & Kern's already excellent

whathifi

FEB 22 2019

(IMAGE 4 OF 6)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **7.86M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **34.2K**

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The SE100 represents a serious evolution of Astell & Kern's already excellent previous efforts, delivering an engaging sound, bold design and a feature-heavy music player experience. It even retains the A&K trademark DAC alter-ego, which allows it to be the sound-enhancing middleman between a computer and headphones.

Of course, the A&futura SE100 is priced out of reach for most. Along with a few rare cases, such as the [A&K A&ultima SP1000](#) (£1999) and [Sony NW-WM1Z](#) (£2570), this really is top-tier pricing for the portable music player market. But for those with grand portable ambitions, high-end headphones and, crucially the budget, the supreme SE100 is both a luxury and a logical buy.

SCORES

- Sound 5
- Features 5
- Build 4

MORE:

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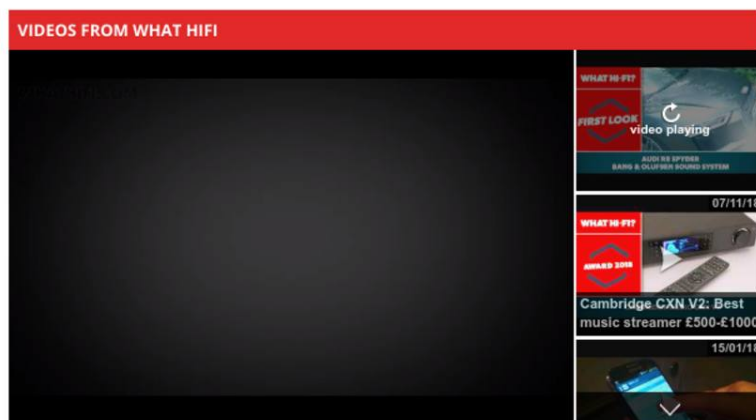
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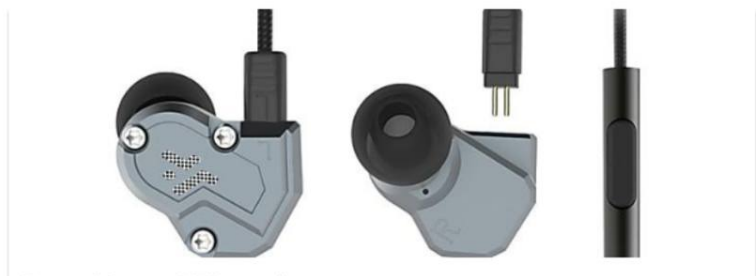
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DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

69

INSIDER TOP FIVE LAUNCHES

Five products to look out for this month

1



Grado GW100 £200
We have waited a long time for Grado's first pair of wireless headphones – the company delayed launch plans until wireless performance reached a satisfactory level. Typically Grado in aesthetic and engineering design, the GW100s use the signature drivers found in the brand's wired models. whf.cm/GW100

2



Audio Pro A10 £200
The Scandinavian brand has made quite a noise in the multi-room market with its Award-winning wireless speaker range. But for its latest wireless speaker, the Audio Pro A10, the company's distinctive Koala-like box design has been dropped for a more familiar cylindrical form favoured by the likes of Sonos or Amazon. whf.cm/A10

3



Dolby Dimension \$599 (£tbc)
The crowded headphone market might not have needed another new brand, but Dolby's first pair of headphones – the Dolby Dimensions – are a welcome addition. Unsurprisingly, the company is pitching 'cinematic sound', via its proprietary new technology called Dolby LifeMix. Expect an announcement on price and availability in the UK shortly. whf.cm/Dimension

4



Chord Ultima £90,000
Comprising a preamplifier and two mono power amps, Chord Electronics' flagship amplifier features its first all-new design in three decades. Hand-built in seven days at Chord's factory in Kent, the aluminium casework allows stacking with other Chord products, such as the Dave DAC. The Ultima preamplifier and Ultima mono amps are available now, priced £30,000 each. whf.cm/Ultima

5



Marshall Woburn II £430
Marshall has launched its own range of Bluetooth speakers (because who wouldn't want to own a speaker that looks like a guitar amp, right?) and the middle-sized Woburn II Bluetooth is the latest. Its two tweeters and 13cm mid/bass drivers deliver 110W of power. Any two speakers in the

CIRCULATION:

26.3K

Uncategorised

Microsoft Surface Headphones: the best headphones for Windows?

Whether you're looking for headphones for your computer, swimming or simply for use at home, our latest tests have you covered



By Oliver Trebilcock

6 Feb 2019



Over the past few months, we've tested a whole range of headphones designed for specific uses, including the Microsoft Surface Headphones, which aim to be a perfect pairing for Windows 10 devices, and the Sony WH-L600 for listening to your TV. We've also tested Sennheiser's first truly wireless earbud headphones, plus plenty more as well. There have been multiple Best Buys and more than a few terrible Don't Buys, so find out all the latest

More on this

[Beats vs Bose headphones: which are the best?](#)

[Top five best wireless headphones for 2019](#)

[How to buy the best headphones](#)

FEB 6 2019

(IMAGE 1 OF 8)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **10.8M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **31.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **79**

**2****1**

few terrible Don't Buys, so find out all the latest headphones have performed below.

If you're looking for the perfect wireless pair for use at home, heritage brand Grado has released its first-ever Bluetooth headphones – the Grado GW100. It's taken its time, though, releasing them more than a decade after most of its rivals. We see whether it's been worth the wait below.

Listening to headphones while swimming used to be a tricky task, even for wired pairs that were sufficiently waterproof. Sony aims to make listening to music while swimming a real possibility with the Sony WF-SP900 truly wireless headphones, whether in the pool or even in the sea.

Are you unsure whether to get smaller on-ear headphones – which sit on your ears – or larger over-ear headphones, which cover them completely? Master & Dynamic aims to solve your dilemma with the MW50+ Wireless, which have interchangeable earcups, so you can switch between styles whenever you like. They also feature some of the most premium materials we've recently seen on headphones, including a largely leather, lambskin and stainless-steel build.

Find out the scores for all our latest headphones tested through the links below.

[Best Buy headphones](#) – skip straight to our top recommendations.

Microsoft Surface Headphones, £329



How to buy the best headphones

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2



1



These are Microsoft's first ever pair of headphones, and its ambition couldn't be greater. They're launching right at the top of the headphones market against flagship models from rival brands including the [Sony WH-1000XM3](#) and [Bose QuietComfort 35 II](#).

Like these, they have active noise cancelling, so you can even use them to block out unwanted background noise when on your laptop or tablet during a train journey or flight. Microsoft has billed them as 'the smarter way to listen' – they feature Microsoft's voice assistant, Cortana, for hands-free control and automatically pause the music when you take them off, then resume playing when you put them on again. They're designed for use with Windows 10 devices, but if you also have iOS or Android devices you can use it with these alongside Windows.

But can Microsoft really create a perfect pair of headphones on first attempt, or are there some teething troubles? Find out in our comprehensive [Microsoft Surface Headphones review](#).

Grado GW100, £180



Headphones specialist Grado Labs first started in 1953, and it has been producing iconic headphones for decades. Now considered retro, its famous design philosophy continues with the Grado GW100, now updated with the latest Bluetooth wireless technology so you can move about without fear of snagging the cord.

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(IMAGE 3 OF 8)

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2



1

about without fear of snagging the cord.

Unlike most headphones, this Grado pair features an open-back design, aimed at making a more 'open' and 'larger' sound that's perfect for use at home. It also makes it easier to hear someone calling you from another room.

Could these be the ideal pair of home headphones, and is there anything to watch out for? Find out in our expert [Grado GW100 review](#).

Sennheiser Momentum True Wireless, £279



Sennheiser is one of the last major manufacturers to launch truly wireless earbud headphones, and they're pitched right at the premium end of the market. They look perfect for those searching for a compact wire-free pair made from the finest materials.

Like all truly wireless headphones, they come with a hard carry case that charges them when not in use. Sennheiser promises 'uncompromised sound performance' and 'state-of-the-art technology' – so do they deliver?

Our lab experts put them through their paces in our [Sennheiser Momentum True Wireless review](#).

Sony WF-SP900, £249



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2



1



Swimming with headphones could become second nature in the future thanks to the truly wireless Sony WF-SP900. They have an IPX5/8 waterproof rating for both fresh and salt water, which allows you to dive down to two metres with the headphones on. Dustproofing means you can also use them on the beach.

For those looking to do vigorous exercise, they also come with arc-supporter ear fins for a more secure fit, and even an optional detachable cord for peace of mind if using them out in the sea.

There's 4GB of internal memory to store music, so you don't need to take your smartphone with you, and an 'ambient mode' which you can use if you want to be able to hear sound from your surroundings.

Are these swimming headphones the dream pair you've been waiting for? See how they performed in our extensive [Sony WF-SP900 review](#).

Master & Dynamic MW50+ Wireless, £369



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(IMAGE 5 OF 8)

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2



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Many choose over-ear headphones for ultimate comfort, and others choose on-ear headphones for a more compact shape. The Master & Dynamic MW50+ Wireless headphones give you the best of both worlds. They come with both larger over-ear and smaller on-ear earpads, so you can switch them whenever you like. They're attached with magnets, so it couldn't be easier to simply pull the earpad away from the headphone housing and magnetically re-attach the other pair.

They come with a hard carry case to store the additional earpads, and a soft drawstring bag that takes both the headphones and both sets of earpads.

And those lamenting the plastic builds of most modern headphones will be pleased as well: the MW50+ Wireless headphones are made from some of the finest materials around, including a core stainless-steel build, a leather headband and soft lambskin earcups.

Could these be the flexible pair you've been looking for? We took a look to see how they perform in our [Master & Dynamic MW50+ Wireless first look review](#).

Sony WH-L600 TV headphones, £220



Do you have a hearing impairment or just want to watch the TV in private without disturbing others? The Sony WH-L600 TV headphones are a wireless pair of headphones that connect to a dedicated base station. They're designed specifically for TV use; you plug the base station into your

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(IMAGE 6 OF 8)

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DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **79**



2



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specifically for TV use: you plug the base station into your TV via a wire and you place the headphones back on the base station when not in use to charge them.

Our expert panel used these headphones both with our usual headphones listening material, including a range of music and radio genres, and also with the TV and cinematic listening material from our sound bars testing, so you know how they perform right across the board.

Find out the results to see if these are the perfect TV headphones in our thorough [Sony WH-L600 review](#).

Even more headphones tested



We've also tested corded wireless headphones, including the premium B&O Beoplay E6 and budget JLab Audio JBuds Pro for those who'd like a lightweight design but better battery life than truly wireless headphones.

Those looking for noise cancelling on a budget should check out our Jam Out There review, below, and for mid-range on-ear headphones, the AKG Y500 look like a stylish pair. We've also tested budget truly wireless headphones – the JLab Audio JBuds Air. Finally, we've reviewed some innovative truly wireless headphones, the Bragi The Dash Pro, which can be controlled by moving your head in various directions – see what we thought in the links below.

Find all these reviews using the links below:

- [B&O Beoplay E6 £200](#)

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(IMAGE 7 OF 8)

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(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **31.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **79**



2



1

- B&O Beoplay E6, £200
- JLab Audio JBuds Pro Bluetooth Earbuds, £20
- Jam Out There (HX-HP303), £39
- AKG Y500, £129
- JLab Audio JBuds Air, £50
- Bragi The Dash Pro (B52-120-01-01), £290

Categories: Uncategorized

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2



1

Which?



Grado GW100 review £180.00

LAUNCHED OCT 2018 / REVIEWED DEC 2018



Try Which? for £1 to reveal
the products that perform



£ Typical price
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Headphones specialist Grado Labs traces its history back to Brooklyn in 1953. And with the Grado GW100, it is one of the last major manufacturers to release wireless headphones, more than a decade later than rivals. Grado says it took its time 'to get the sound just right' with 'no compromises,' so has the wait been worth it? Our experts put them to the test.



PROS: Is it worth your money?



CONS: Or is it a waste of cash?

Which?

(IMAGE 1 OF 5)

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CONS: Or is it a waste of cash?

Which?

(IMAGE 2 OF 5)

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? %

Overall sound quality

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Specification

Type	On-ear	▼
Headphone design	Open design	▼
Powered from battery	✓	▼
Type of battery	Built-in rechargeable	▼
Wireless	✓	▼
Connection adapters	-	▼
Travel case	✗	▼



Weight (g)	170	▼
Cable length (cm)	-	▼
Headphone controls	✓	▼
L and R present	✓	▼
Headphones fold	✗	▼
Noise cancelling	✗	▼
Sports headphones	✗	▼
Truly wireless	✗	▼
TV headphones with dock	-	▼
Bone conduction	✗	▼

Which?

(IMAGE 3 OF 5)

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Suggested alternatives



Sony WH-H900N h.ear on 2 Wireless NC
Reviewed Oct 2017

£179.00
Lowest price
(in stock)



Sony MDR-XB50AP
Reviewed Nov 2017

£17.98
Lowest price
(in stock)



Sony MDR-EX450
Reviewed Nov 2014

£32.99
Lowest price
(in stock)

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Which? experts explain how to buy the best headphones, including how much to pay, what features to consider, such as wireless Bluetooth and noise cancelling, and what type to go for: in-ear, earbud, on-ear or over-ear headphones.

Beats vs Bose headphones: which are the best? >

We pit Beats and Bose headphones against each other to find out which are the best, including in-ear and earbud, on-ear and over-ear models, such as the Bose QuietComfort 35 II, Beats Solo 3 and Beats Studio 3 wireless headphones.

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Top five best wireless headphones for 2019 >

The top five best wireless headphones based on Which? tests, with excellent sound quality, comfort, battery life and value for money. We consider all the top brands, such as Bose, Sennheiser, Sony and AKG, plus noise cancelling.

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Grado GW100 Wireless Headphones review

Grado makes the grade (again)

★★★★☆ By Olivia Tambini 8 days ago [Speakers and headphones](#)



OUR VERDICT

The Grado GW100s sound stunning, with a wide, warm soundstage, but they won't work for commuting or listening in communal areas.

+ FOR

- Fantastic audio quality
- Cool retro design
- Comfortable

- AGAINST

- Heavy sound leakage
- Slightly flimsy build

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Brooklyn-based company [Grado](#) has been in the audio game for a long time, making a splash in the 1950's with its pioneering phono catridges. It wasn't until the early 1990's that Grado branched out into headphones, and it has been gradually refining its flagship on-ear headphone series ever since.

While the company is well-known for creating high-quality, warm-toned headphones, it's taken them some time to jump on the wireless headphones bandwagon. But, Grado finally cut the cord with the launch of the GW100 Wireless open-back headphones – which, it claims, are the first-ever.

- [Grado GW100 Wireless Bluetooth Headphones at Amazon for \\$249](#)

The question is, can Grado retain its reputation for fantastic audio quality without the wire? Here's what we thought of its latest pair of cans.



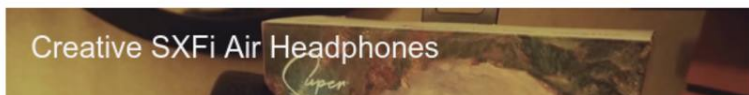
Image Credit: TechRadar

Price and availability

The Grado GW100s are available to buy for \$249.99 (£199.95 / AU\$365), sitting at the higher end of the price scale compared to some of the [best on-ear headphones](#) we've reviewed.

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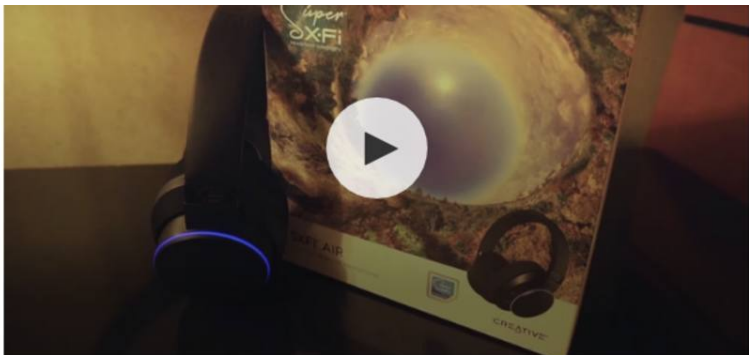


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Generally, for a high-performing pair of wireless on-ear headphones, you'll need to fork out anything from \$100 to as much as \$450 (if you're after a luxury listening experience, check out the [Master & Dynamic MW50 Wireless](#)).

At double the price of some of their closest competitors, the Grado GW100s should far surpass them in terms of design, features, and audio performance – thankfully, they mostly do.

Design

The first thing you'll notice about the Grado GW100s is that they are on-ear, or 'supra-aural' headphones. This means that the cushions sit on, rather than over, your ears, which makes them more compact and travel friendly than chunky over-ear cans.

Conversely, they're usually more comfortable to wear for long periods than in-ear headphones. In other words, supra-aural headphones represent a comfortable mid-point between your clunky noise-cancelling over-ears and the tiny in-ear buds you wear for working out.

The Grado GW100s carry on the distinctive retro design of the Grado Prestige series of headphones, with an all-over black design with aluminum hardware.

Made out of metal and plastic, they are extremely lightweight, but they do feel rather flimsy; we wouldn't feel comfortable just chucking them into our bag, and for the price, you may expect a sturdier construction.

The headband is similarly lightweight, and feels comfortable and soft even after long listening sessions.



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Image Credit: TechRadar

The earpads are made from foam, and they don't feel particularly strong; however, they are extremely comfortable to wear. They also pop off of the cups quite easily, which can be annoying if you have to root around in the bottom of your bag for a missing cushion.

As the Grado GW100s are open-back headphones, the grille is exposed on the rear of the enclosure on each cup, which allows sound and air to move more freely in and out of the cups which improves the sound (but more on that later).

Surrounding each grille you'll find the brand and series name in an attractive typewriter-style font, adding to the retro appeal of the headphones, as well as the Grado logo in the middle of each grille.

Overall the Grado GW100s look very attractive, but the vintage design won't appeal to everyone. If you prefer your headphones to look a little more futuristic, you may want to try headphone brands like Sony or Bose, whose headphones typically sport a sleeker, more transportation-friendly design.



Image Credit: TechRadar

Features and performance

Grado's SR60i open-back headphones are currently our favorite over-ear headphones, but can the new wireless model live up to its wired predecessor?

Like all Grado headphones, the GW100s feature an open-back design, which means the grilles are completely exposed on the outside of the earcups, allowing the drivers to direct sound both in and out of the cups.

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In closed cup headphones, this sound is trapped inside the cup, which is fantastic for noise isolation, but can lead to a narrow soundstage that makes it feel as if your music is coming directly from your own head – not exactly a natural mode of listening.

In contrast, the free movement of sound in and out of the cups of open-backed headphones means the soundstage feels far wider, as if you're listening to a musician play in a normal room. This is heightened by the supra-aural design of the GW100s, which further reduces the closed-off feeling you can get from closed-back headphones.

With the GW100s, the effect of the open-backed design is to deliver a stunningly natural representation of your music, with a warm, expansive soundstage - and with aptX Bluetooth, the audio is of high quality.



We tested them out on Sufjan Steven's 2015 album 'Carrie & Lowell', and we were blown away by the spaciousness of the soundstage. Tumbling folk guitar arpeggios sound detailed and smooth, while strings and synths have a generous and warm quality.

But, where the GW100s really shine is in the vocals; the choral and close harmony vocals soar triumphantly above the other frequencies while Steven's almost-whispered melodies sound devastatingly authentic thanks to that wide soundstage.

We went with something a little bassier to see how the GW100s handle lower frequencies, so we stuck on Childish Gambino's 'IV. Sweatpants', which features knee-shaking sub synths and thumping percussion – and we weren't disappointed.

Bass frequencies sound powerful and extended, but don't overpower the other frequencies, leading to a well balanced overall sound.



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Image Credit: TechRadar

One of the main drawbacks of open-back headphones is that you get a lot of sound leakage, both in and out of the cups, which makes them unsuitable for listening outside of your home; you'll be able to hear most of your surroundings and, worse, fellow passengers will be able to hear what you're listening to pretty clearly.

This means the GW100s are really only suitable for listening to music alone in a quiet room – which begs the question, why make them wireless if they aren't suitable for listening on the move?

You could use them while pottering around the house, but if you are an audiophile (which is likely if you opt for open-back headphones), you'll probably want to use the included AUX wire for a higher quality sound anyway.

Even if we can't wrap our heads around the wireless functionality, we found the GW100s were easy to connect to our smartphone, and they have a wireless range of 10 meters. Battery life is around 15 hours if you're listening at a "moderate" volume, but you can expect this to drop off if you like to crank your music loud.

The inbuilt microphone is fine for summoning your device's voice assistant, but when we tried calling a friend, they mentioned that the audio quality wasn't great, and they sometimes struggled to hear us.



Image Credit: TechRadar

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Final verdict

The Grado GW100s sound absolutely stunning; they boast an immersive, wide soundstage, clear highs, smooth mids, and extended bass frequencies. They also look great, with a kitsch, retro design that recalls Grado's humble beginnings in 50's Brooklyn – but, that said, that vintage-style look won't appeal to everyone, and they do feel a little flimsy.

Although the Bluetooth connection works very well, we are struggling to understand the need for a wireless pair of open-back headphones; particularly if the design makes them unsuitable for commuting or listening in communal areas. Still, having the option to listen wirelessly is undeniably convenient when you're pottering around the house, and audiophiles can use them with an AUX cable if they prefer.

Overall, we feel the Grado GW100s are designed for a fairly niche market of audiophiles who crave a wide, natural sound, and who do the majority of their music listening at home. If that sounds like you, you will probably love the Grado GW100s. If not, you may want to look at closed-back models instead.

- [Best headphones 2019: Your definitive guide to the latest and greatest audio](#)

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John Grado: humble beginnings, why headphones, and finally going wireless

By [Becky Roberts](#) 4 days ago [Feature](#)

"There's always going to be a need for wired headphones"



John Grado [left] and his son Jonathan

"I don't think of us as this worldly company," says John Grado down the phone to *What Hi-Fi?* from his Grado Labs office desk in Brooklyn, NY.

It's a modest remark from Grado's president and CEO - the company's globally-renowned reputation for making quality, price-spanning phono cartridges and headphones far exceeds its humble operations.

Since being founded by John's uncle Joseph Grado in 1953, Grado has been a family-owned cartridge business residing in the building John's father built in 1918.

"My grandfather had a fruit store on the first floor and wanted to build a grocery store conglomerate," says John. "Thankfully his sons weren't interested, otherwise that's probably what I'd be doing today. We joke that he was the first one to sell Apple products!"

Joseph was the inventor of the stereo moving coil cartridge, owning the patent, but many years after his nephew John's first involvement with the company as a 12-year-old in 1965, Grado branched out into headphones, including *What Hi-Fi?* Award-winners, such as the [SR325e](#) and [SR80e](#).

Fast forward to today - some 25 years after Bluetooth headphones arrived on the scene - and Grado has just launched its [first pair of wireless headphones](#), the [GW100](#).

It's fair to say that Grado does things at its own pace, but there is a reason for that...



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1



Very much Grado in both aesthetic and engineering design

Why wireless? Why now?

“Grado’s main focus has always been the sound. People have been on at us for years to do wireless or closed designs, but we know anything we put out there would be expected to sound like our open headphones. They’d be compared to what we have already.

“Over the years we’ve experimented, but felt we couldn’t get anything that would satisfy the user as being equal to what we do with our open headphones. We could have made them for years – but that’s not our main objective. Our reputation is more important. It’s hard enough building one, and even harder keeping it!

“There’s always going to be a need for wired headphones. The wired market always keeps us busy. Jet Blue [the airline] orders a couple of thousand pairs a month – they can’t use Bluetooth because of the interference.

“But we always knew that eventually we’d have to go wireless, and we always looked at things we could do. Right now we still feel a wired headphone sounds better, but we think we did a really good job with the GW100s.”

Four-pronged attack

“The GW100s took two years, so you could say we’ve been in the wireless headphone business for that long.

“They don’t reflect back to any specific Grado model, but four things were important to us. First, it had to have the Grado sound. Second, it had to have the Grado look, which is iconic to us. Third, it had to be as light as possible – it weighs under 6oz [170g], and fourth, for our first jump into the water, we wanted it to be priced aggressively.”

The GW100 isn’t the end of Grado jumping into the water, so what has the company done to ensure the GW100s make the grade?

“It’s not that I don’t want to tell you... there’s a speaker, a wire and an implosion to hold it together. We’re a little protective so there are some secrets. We’re like chefs, we have recipes, we add a little of this, a little of that. It’s all in how we damp the driver and hold the housing.”



Open back? No noise-cancelling?

Two things many will question about the GW100s are their open-back design and lack of noise-cancelling. Wireless headphones are inherently far on the an

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and lack of noise-cancelling. Wireless headphones are inherently for on-the-go use, so why allow sound to come in or out?

"We decided the one thing that held it back from sounding like a Grado was noise-cancelling. If someone needs a noise-cancelling headphone, they can get one elsewhere.

"If it's dead quiet, someone may be able to hear something playing, but when I'm at my desk and people are walking around and papers are shuffling, someone sitting five feet from me can't hear them. And that's something we're proud of.

"The leakage has been noticeably reduced, and anyway, it's nice to be able to hear something like a horn honking or a friend coming up to you. It's like when people were out and about with a boombox! But it's not like the music is secondary."

And then there's the uniquely consistent, agricultural aesthetic that dates back to the brand's first headphones over 50 years ago...

"Every once in a while, someone will say they look old-fashioned, but we have more people saying they like the look. And that's why we stuck with it for the GW100. It's kind of an updated look, but if you see someone walk down the street you can tell it's a Grado straight away."

Why headphones?

Cartridges and headphones is an unusual exclusive pairing for a hi-fi business, but one that has clearly worked for Grado. You could say Grado fell into headphones in the 1990s, until then it had been largely a cartridge-only company, a few dabblings in turntable and speaker systems aside. Jon takes up the story...

"In the early 1960s there was the record changer, which we couldn't compete with. So in 1963-64, we stopped speaker and turntable manufacturing and concentrated on the phono cartridge market. In 1980 we hit our peak; we were shifting 10,000 phono cartridges a week. Then the CD came out and, so in the 1990s, that dropped to 12,000 a year. We lost most of our distributors around the world.



The SR60 has had three generations – SR60, SR60i and SR60e (pictured) – in their 25-year lifespan.

"My uncle and I always tinkered with speakers, so we had the acoustic knowledge. Headphones were kind of second class next to stereo systems, but we thought that every child would have a laptop for school and they'd want headphones. We never envisaged the iPods or smartphones – they were just a bonus. When I bought the company from my uncle in 1990, we slowly got into the headphone business. We had to rebuild our reputation...

"I was ambitious. I was designing speaker systems and chief designers at Marantz, Sid Smith and Dick Squara, were going to do the electronics. But in December 1994, Stereophile reviewed our SR60 headphones [the latest editions are pictured] and we went to CES in January to introduce them officially. Then we had a \$600 headphone, and we had this \$60 headphone. We came back from the show and our business took off like a rocket. We made an executive decision to stick with headphones. The speakers are always there, we just love

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from the show and our business took on a life of its own. We made an executive decision to stick with headphones. The speakers are always there, we just love doing headphones."

"For as long as we can keep this thing going"

And cartridges too, evidently. "The cartridge business picked up in the 2000s, what with the newer generations getting back into music. As they mature in age, I see an increased interest in a two-channel system too. We never expected to be making phono cartridges in 2018. I don't think it'll ever go away.

"We're currently working on Bluetooth in-ears that possibly would be noise-cancelling, because we understand there's a need for it. It is nice to have a product that fills an area in the industry we're in."

John seems to be making good on that next jump in the water, then, but how big a fish will Grado be in an ever-expanding sea?

"We could try to grow this thing much bigger than it is. But I wouldn't want to be dealing with lawyers, stockholders... we've built the business and it's enjoyable as it is. Our design works within our parameters. We have machines we've been using for 40 years - they get the job done. This is who we are, we produce products that we like.

"My son, Jonathan (27), is into marketing and Matthew (23) is interested in the operations side. I don't ever expect to retire - I like getting my hands dirty - but one day I will relinquish the chain of command. This is going to be theirs.

"If the boys weren't interested I don't think I would sell, I'd rather just ride off into the sunset. Grado will be family owned as long as we can keep this thing going."

John Grado: Hi-fi profile

WHF: What was your first hi-fi system?

JG: Fisher integrated receiver, Garrard turntable, Sansui speakers. My older brother and I bought it together in the late 1960s.



What was the first piece of music you bought?

The Beatles' *Eight Days A Week* on 7in vinyl. I'm a product of the '60s, and a big Beatles fan. My best friend from kindergarten, Mark Prevara (Billy Joel's saxophonist), and I formed the 'Junior Beatles' when we were young.

Jonathan [John's son] used to work with Sonos and was introduced to Giles Martin, George Martin's son, who had a broken pair of Grado RS1s. We sorted him out with a pair. He finished Paul McCartney's album and re-did the vocal using Grado headphones.

What's your reference system?

I have two systems, and this goes back to when I was designing speakers. I had a solid-state and tube system, and I'd just switch between the two.

The valve-based system: Micro Seiki DQX 500 turntable with a Grado tonearm and Grado Epoch cartridge, Audio Research pre-amp, phono stage and power amplification, a Rotel RCD-9658X CD player and a Forte DAC.

The solid-state system: a Technics SL-1200 turntable with Grado mono cartridge, a Threshold pre-amp, Melos phono stage and Forte monoblock power amps.

The equipment I have is getting on for 24 years old. I have manufacturers wanting to send me stuff - several hundred thousand dollar systems - but this is my system, my reference point. If I throw something else in there I lose my reference.



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Grado RS1: Grado's first wooden headphones

Your three favourite Grado products?

Firstly, the Grado SR60, because that's the one that gave us credibility. It launched in 1994 and we're still producing them. It's 25 years old now and has had three generations. We only come out with new models when we feel we have something new that's worthwhile, and that applies all the way up the line.

I always thought of the SR60 as a seed. We were giving people an opportunity to get into the Grado world, and then they end up moving up the line. People ask, "what gets better?", and the easiest way to explain the answer is it that you keep the signature Grado sound, you just get more and more information.

Then the RS1 headphone, as it was our first wooden headphone. We would build parts here for the RS1 - do 25 wooden housings at a time. But now a friend of the family, who used to make wood pens, does all our woodwork now. We are his only client so it's really an extension of us. It's very controlled.

The third? Everything else.

Which rival product do you admire the most?

I can't really think of rival products that spring to mind, but I do admire companies that are successful. There are always ups and downs, so any company that gets its product out there and is successful, I admire - whether they're a competitor or not.

MORE:

- [Grado SR60i review](#)
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